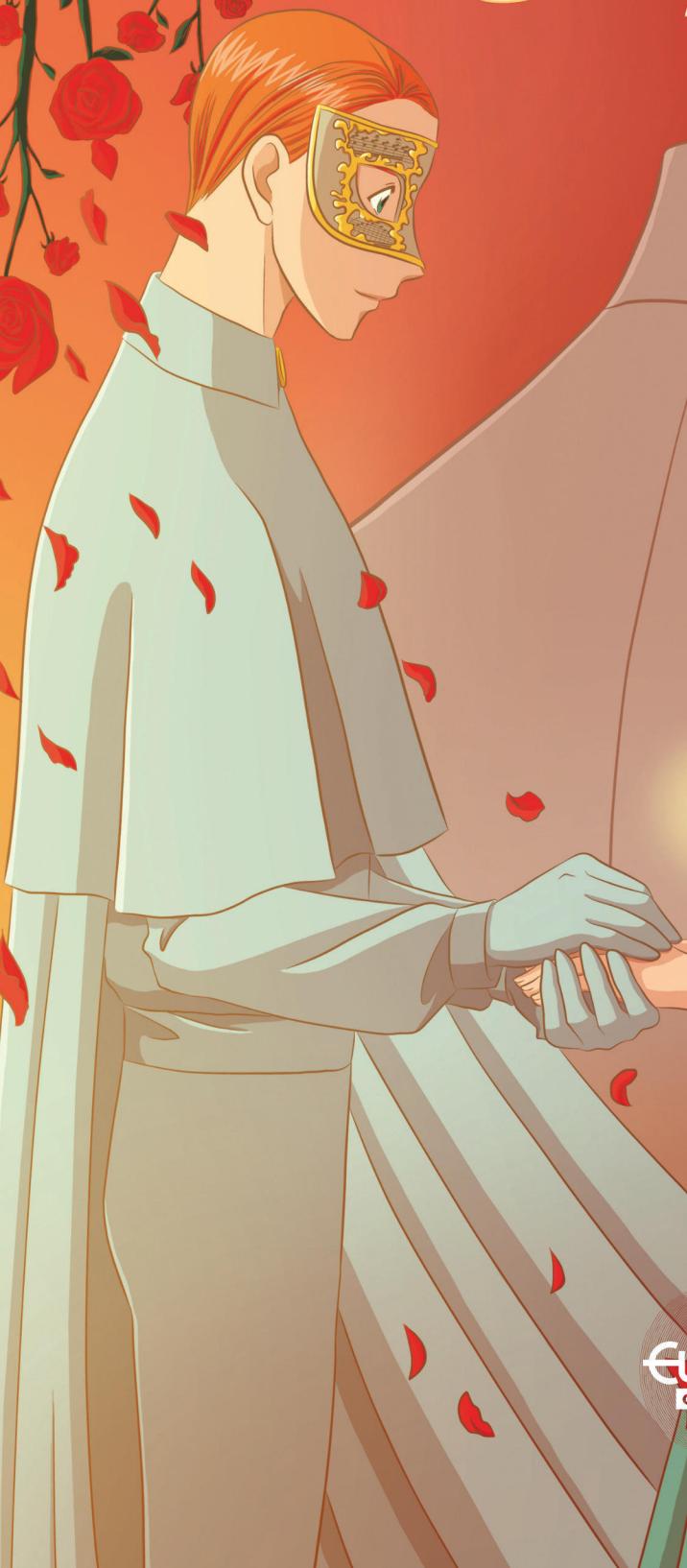


KARINA

Sleeping Beauty

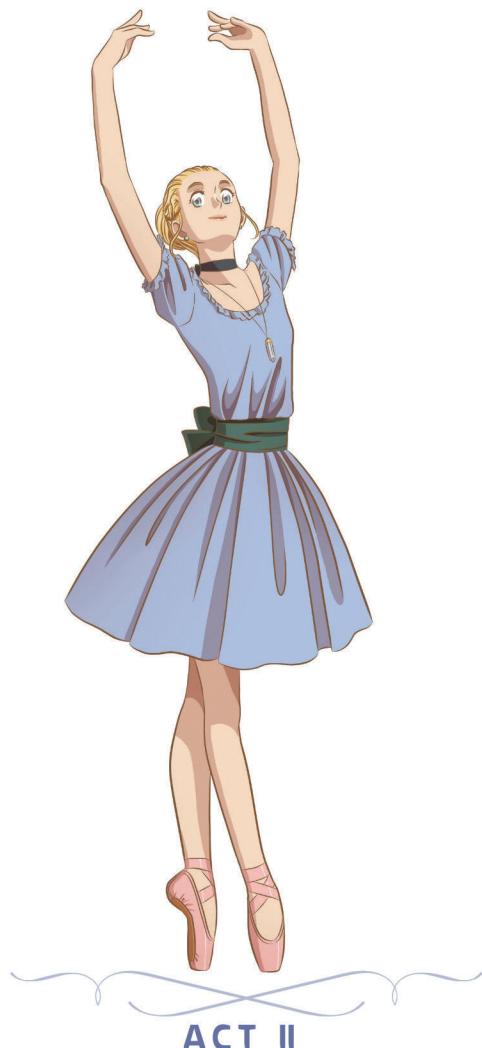
ACT II



Europe
COMICS

KARINA

Sleeping Beauty



ACT II

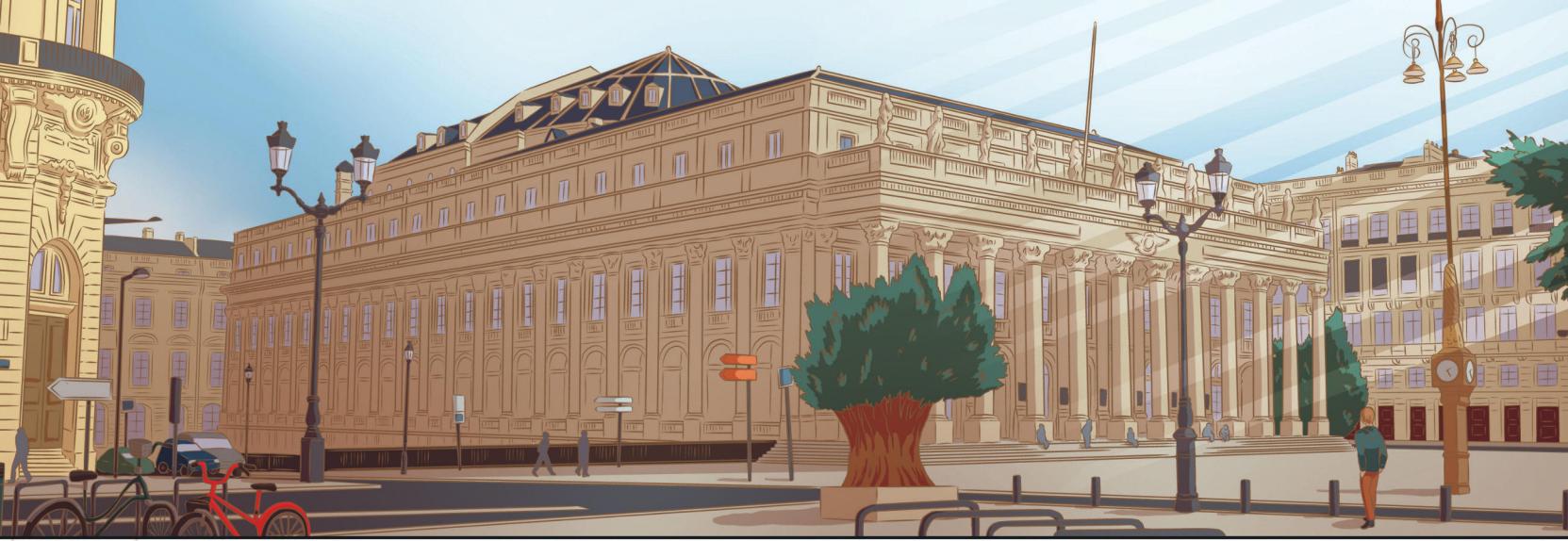


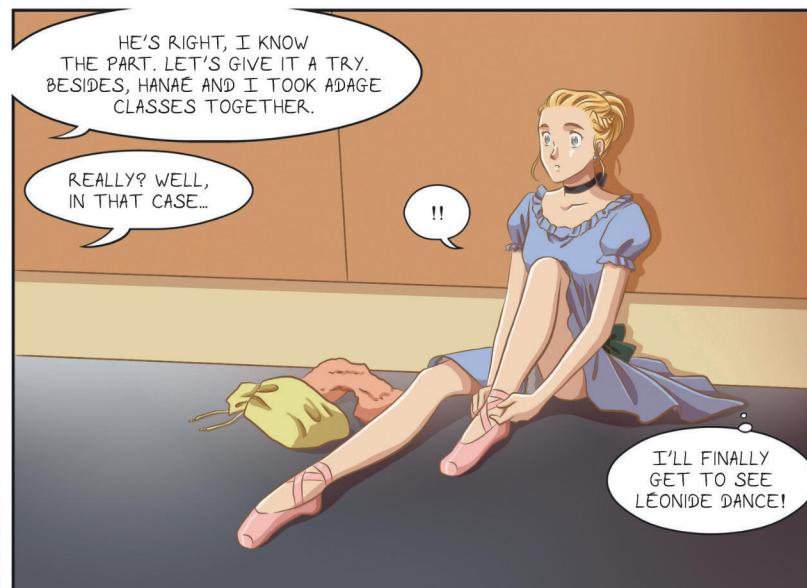


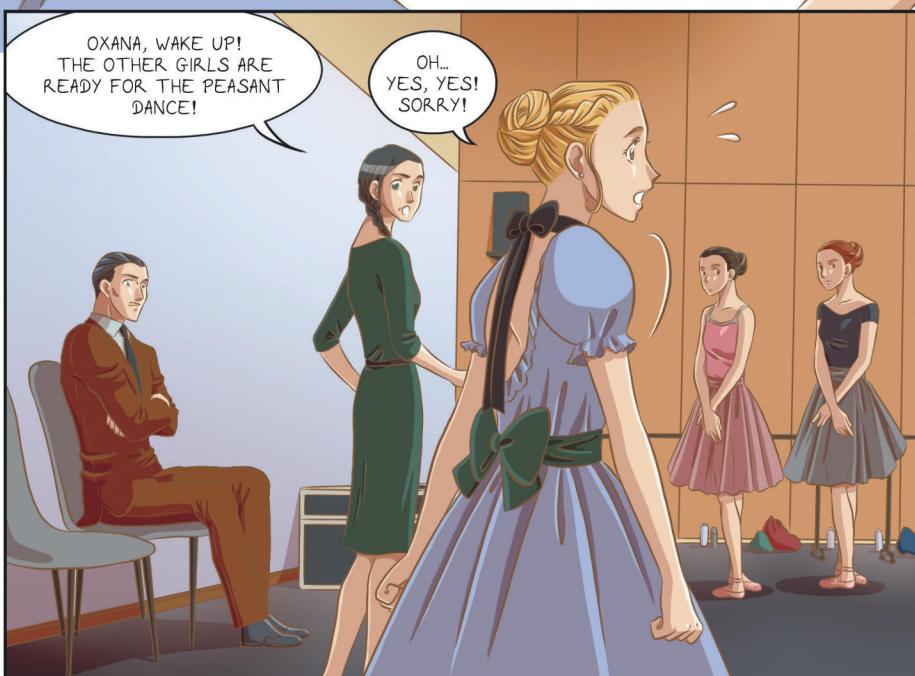
Oxana still hasn't recovered her memory, but she's found so much more!

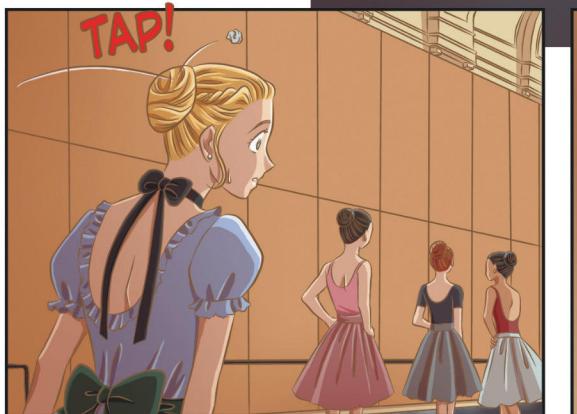
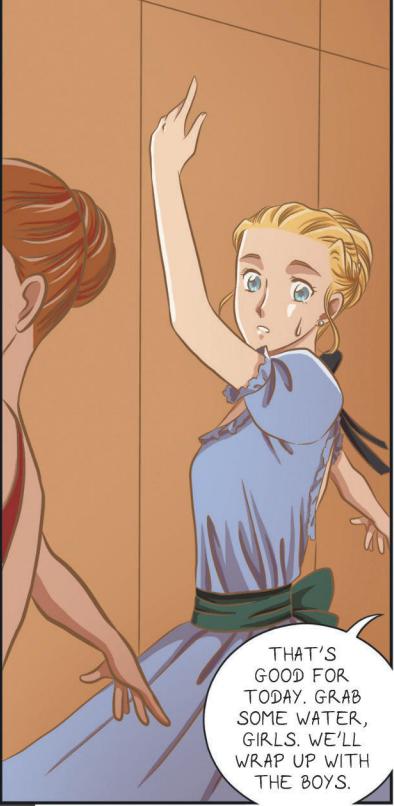
Friends and a dream: to become a dancer in the prestigious Grand Theater company. But she'll have to contend with the scheming of Mr. Aster, the school director. With Ludwig's assistance, Mr. Aster will stop at nothing to get his hands on Oxana's mysterious necklace. Fortunately, she can count on Aria, Mrs. Iris, and also the man in white, whose identity can't stay hidden forever...

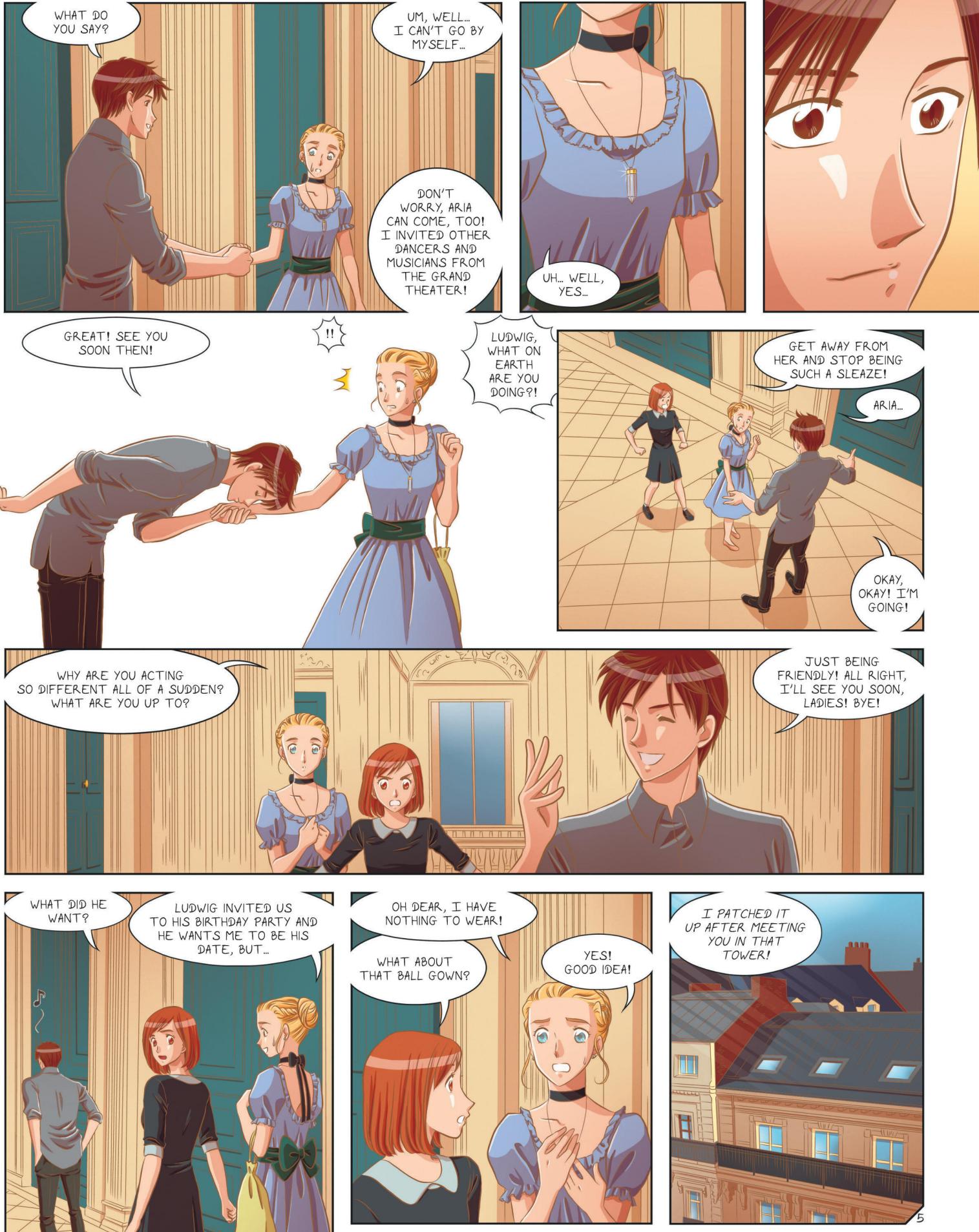




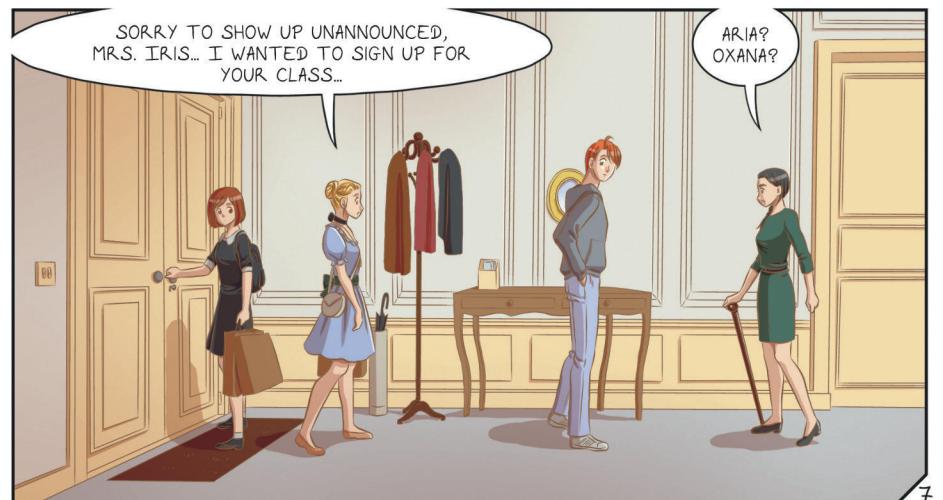
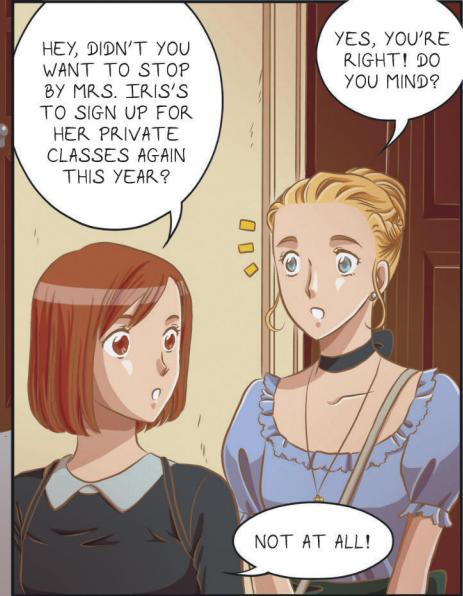


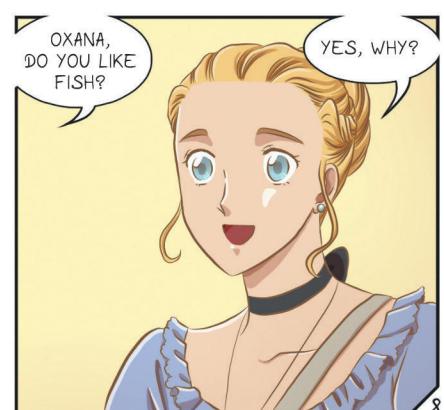
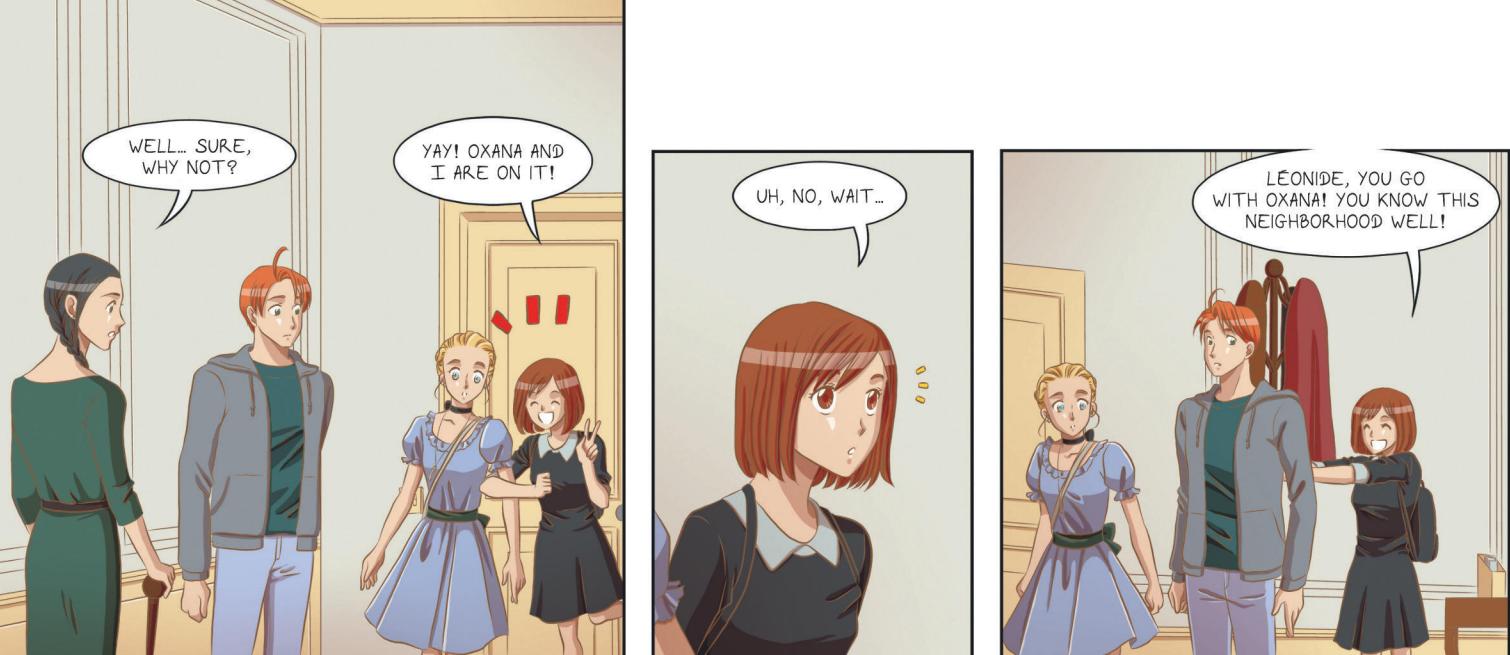


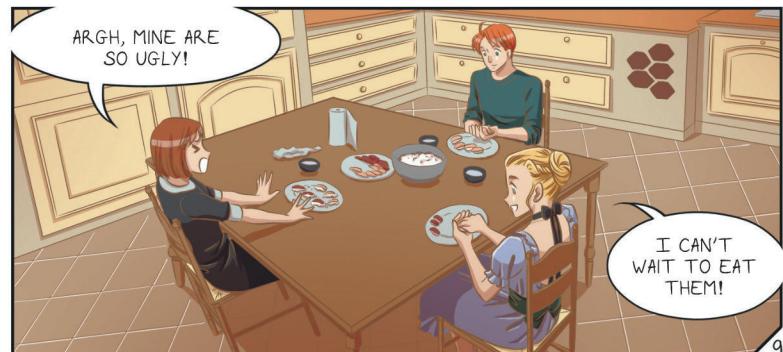


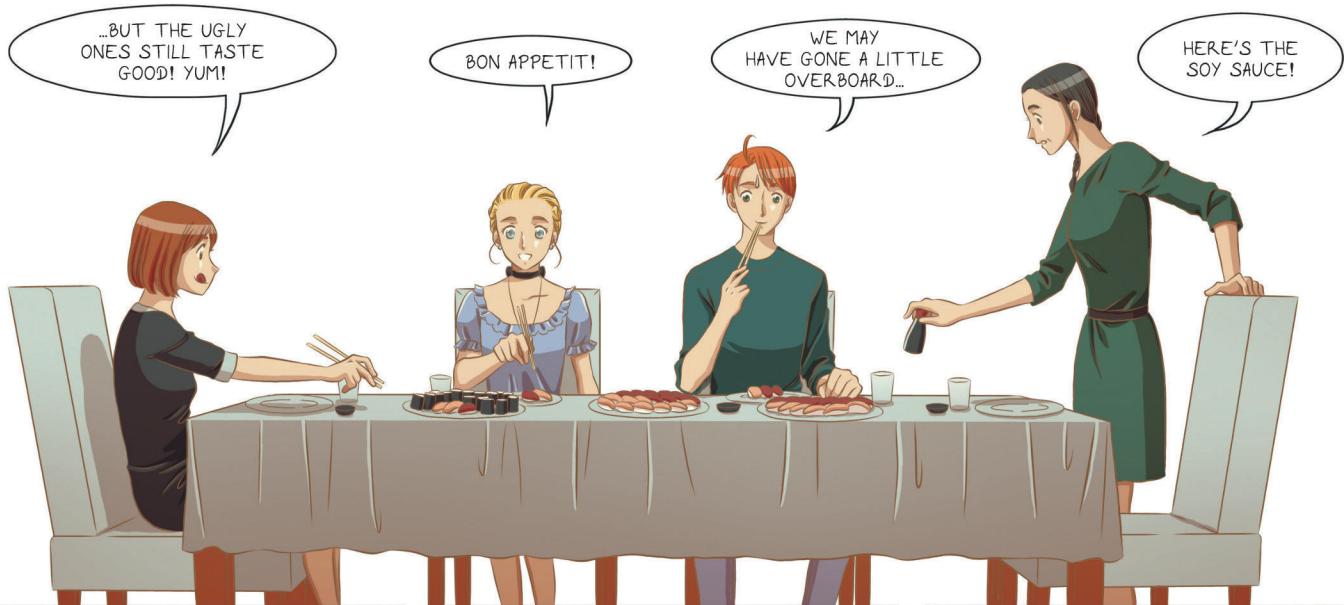
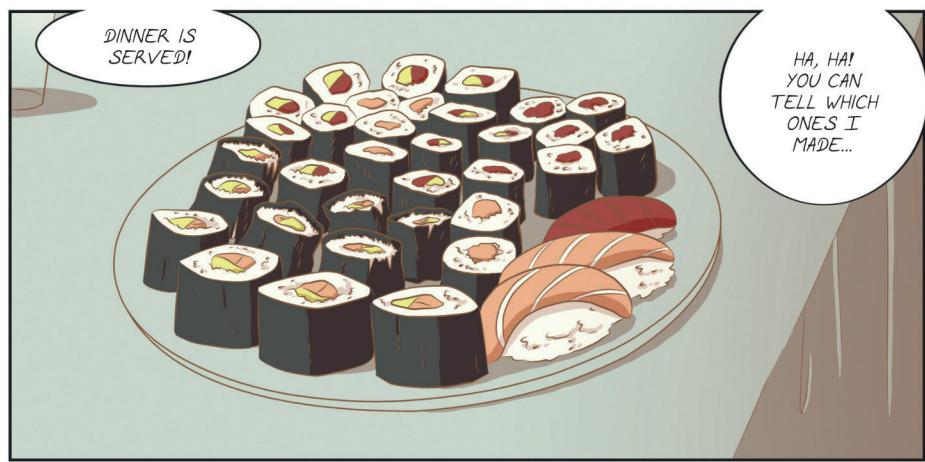






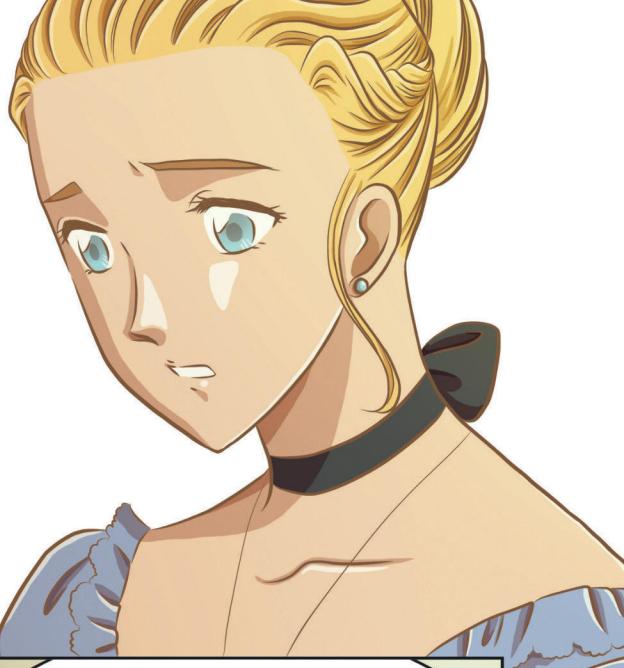




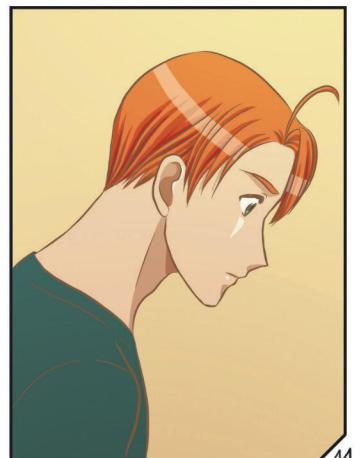
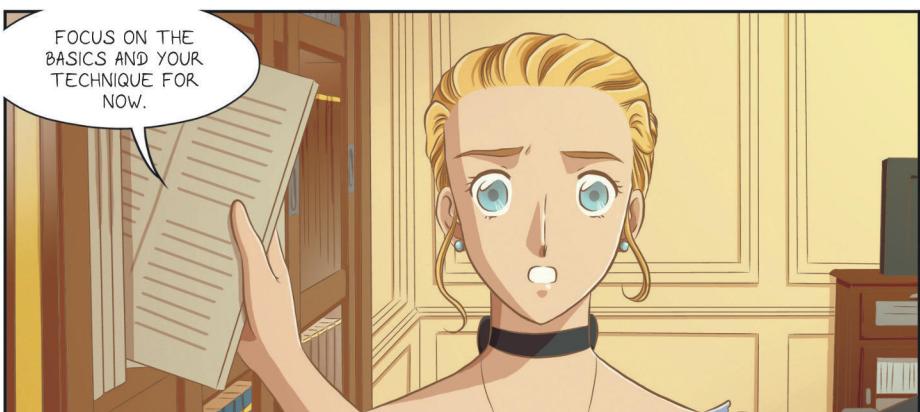


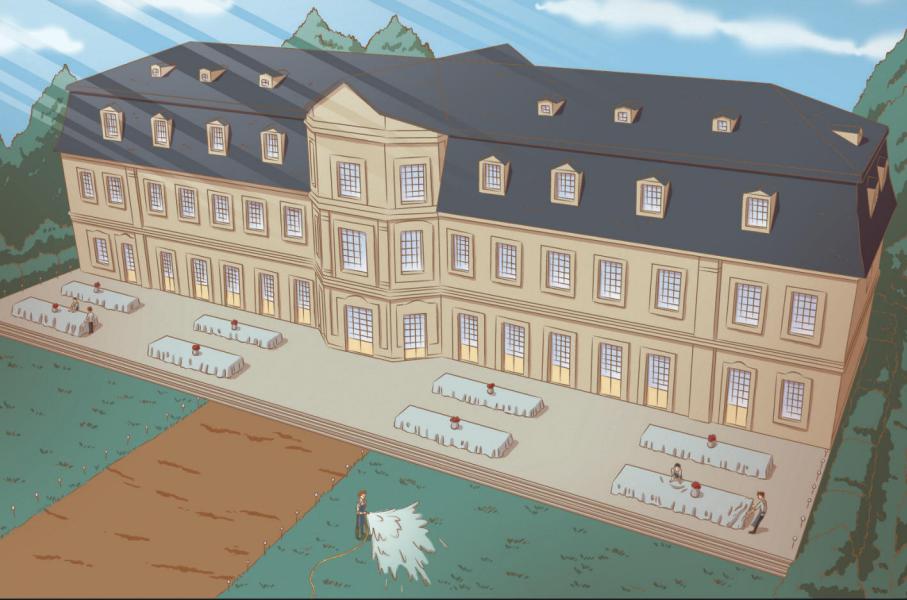


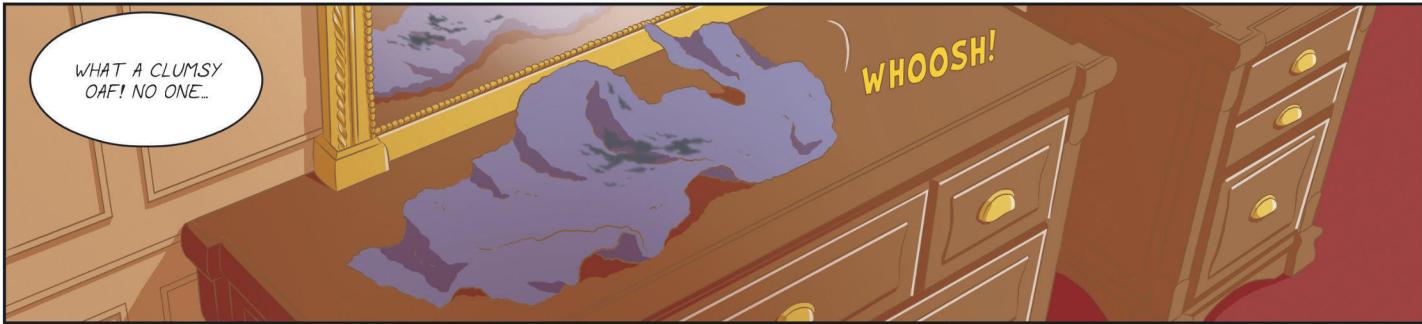
...APPARENTLY YOU NO LONGER DO THAT BALLET.



OXANA, I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY, BUT A DANCER ISN'T GUARANTEED A CERTAIN ROLE JUST BECAUSE SHE'S ALREADY PERFORMED IT OR HAS ALWAYS DREAMED OF DANCING IT.







LUDWIG,
WHAT ARE YOU
PLAYING?

AH, FATHER! IT'S AN
EXCERPT FROM TCHAIKOVSKY'S
SLEEPING BEAUTY!

I KNOW THAT, BUT YOU
KNOW FULL WELL THAT YOUR
GRANDFATHER DOESN'T WANT
TO HEAR IT...

AND WHY NOT? IT'S BEEN
AGES SINCE ANYONE'S PLAYED IT
AROUND HERE!

BETTER ASK
FOR PERMISSION
ALL THE SAME...

SERIOUSLY?

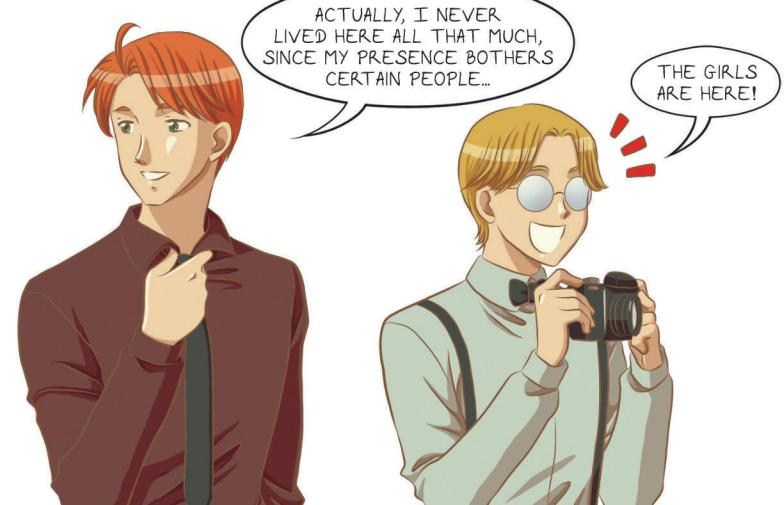
HA, HA! GOOD OLD
LUDWIG! YOU'RE A
GENIUS!

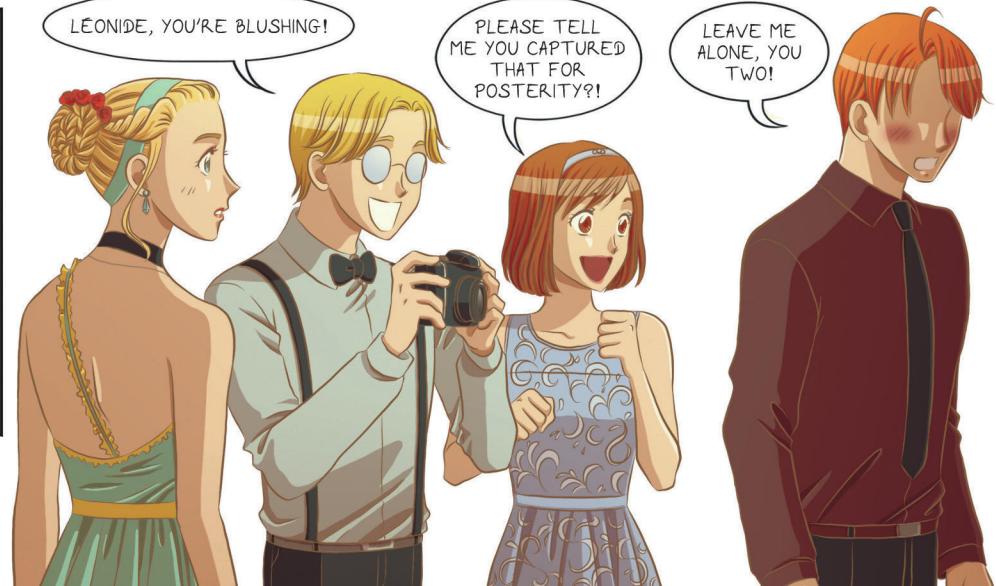
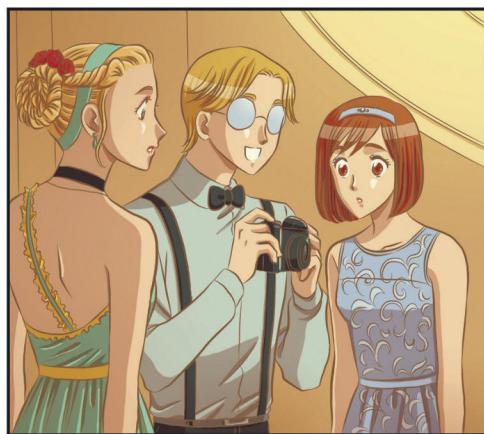
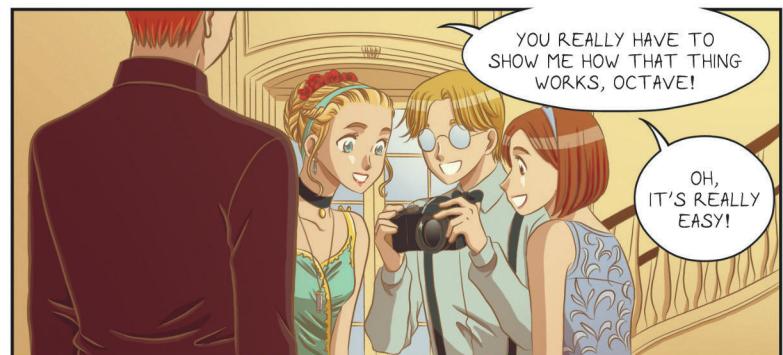
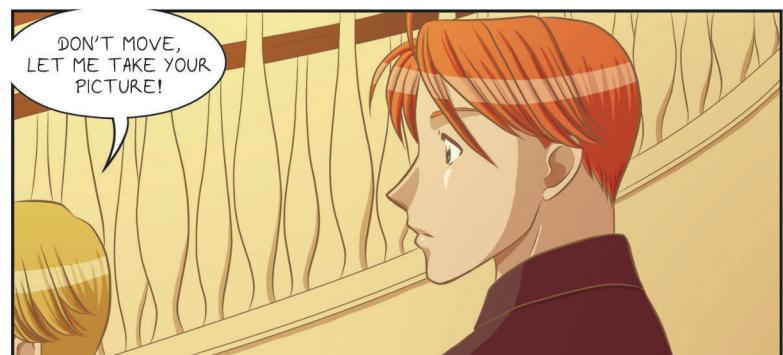
WOA! LÉONIDE,
YOU AND LUDWIG LIVE
IN A PALACE?!

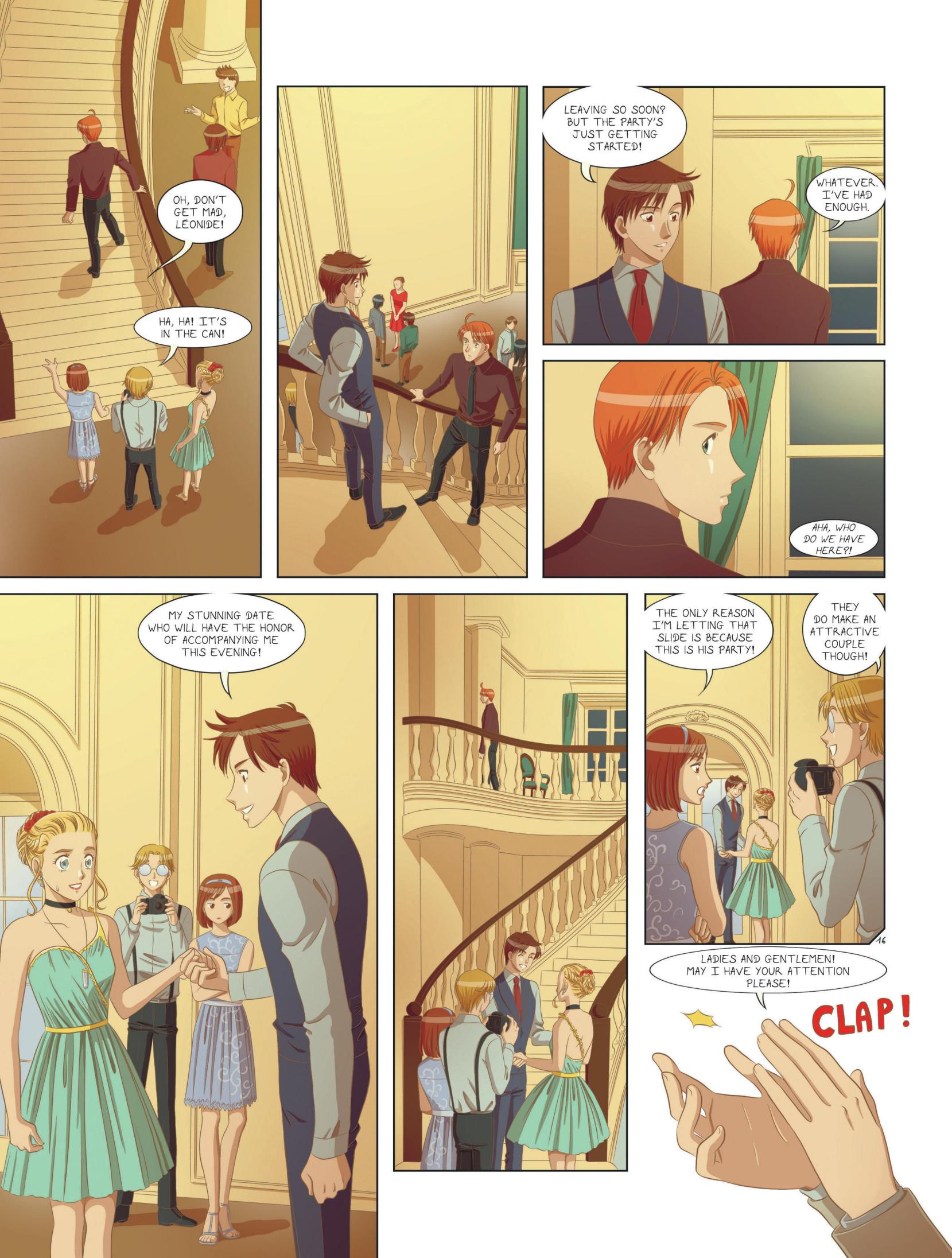
THIS'LL MAKE
FOR SOME STUNNING
SHOTS!

ACTUALLY, I NEVER
LIVED HERE ALL THAT MUCH,
SINCE MY PRESENCE BOthers
CERTAIN PEOPLE...

THE GIRLS
ARE HERE!





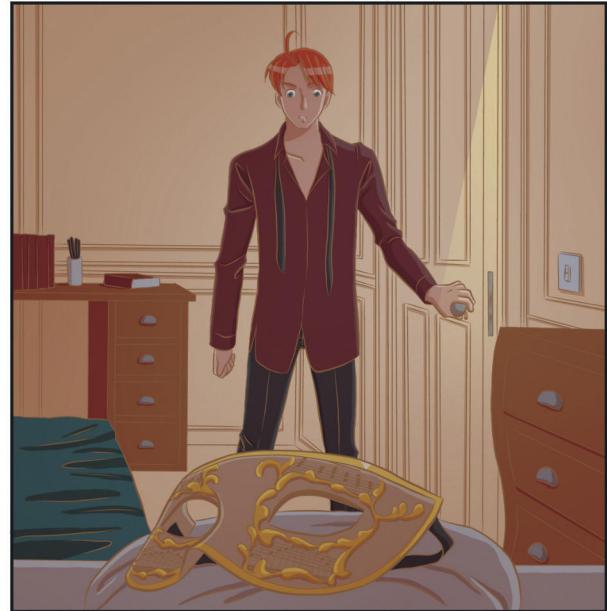
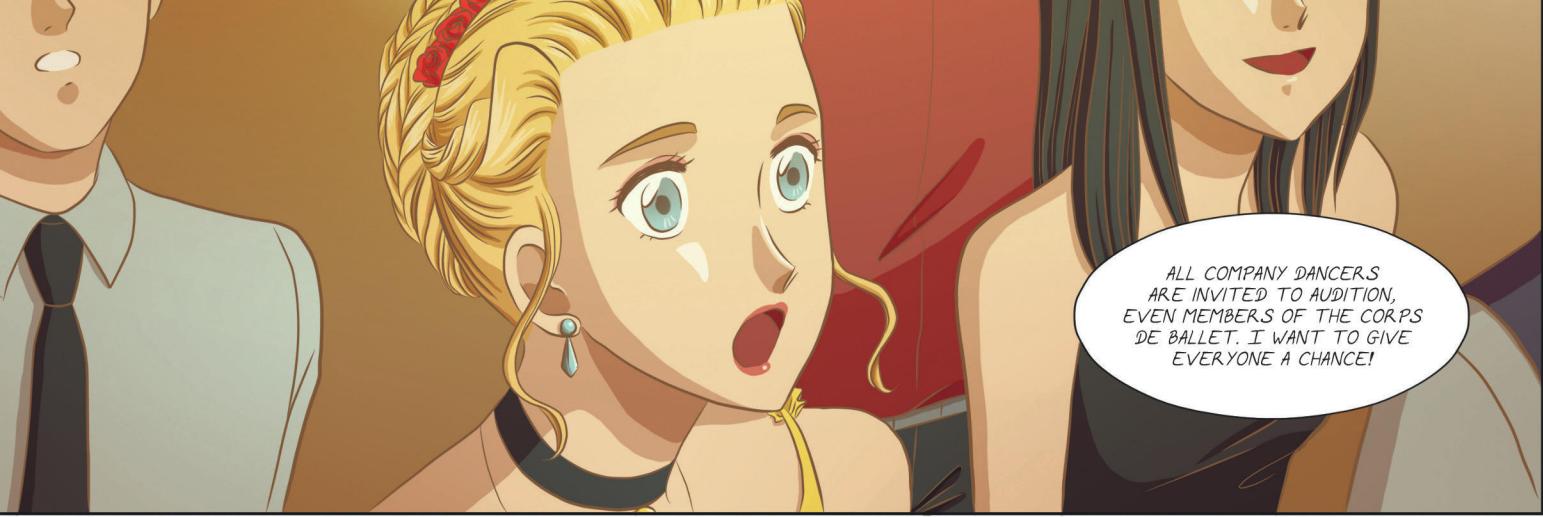


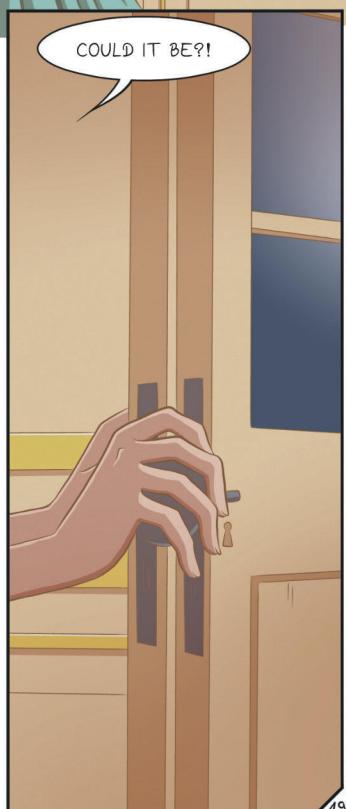
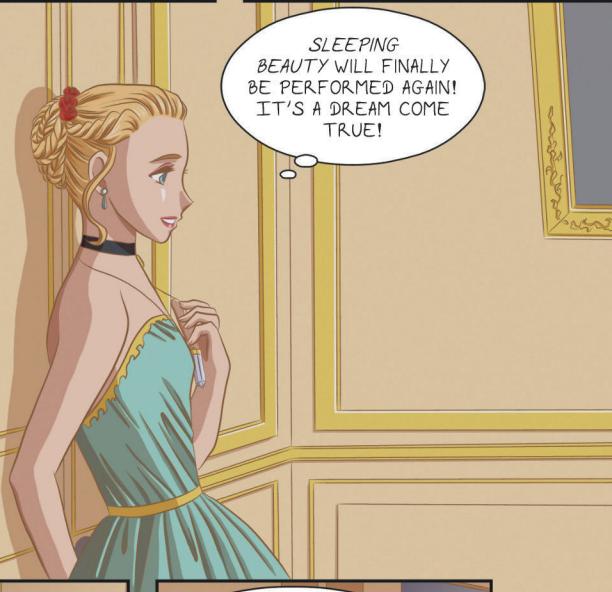
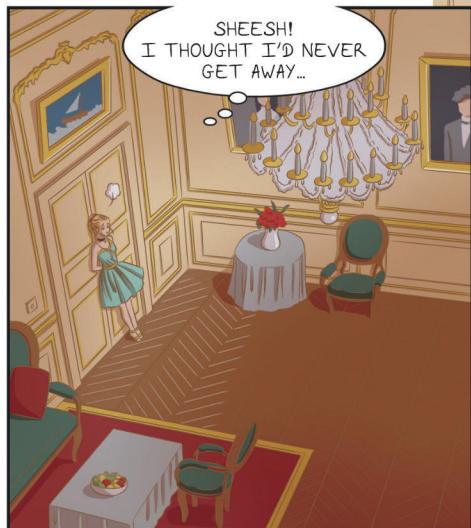
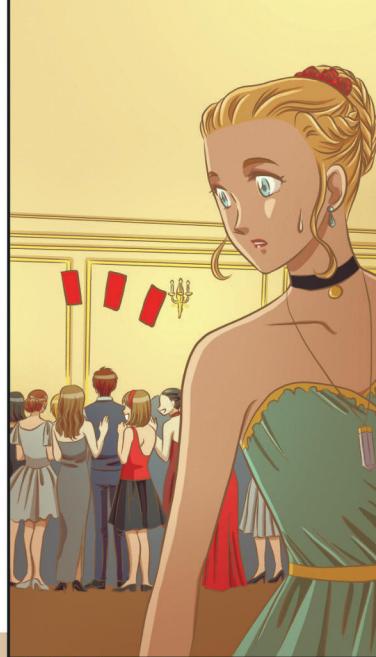
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING
TO CELEBRATE MY GRANDSON, LUDWIG
ASTER'S, BIRTHDAY.

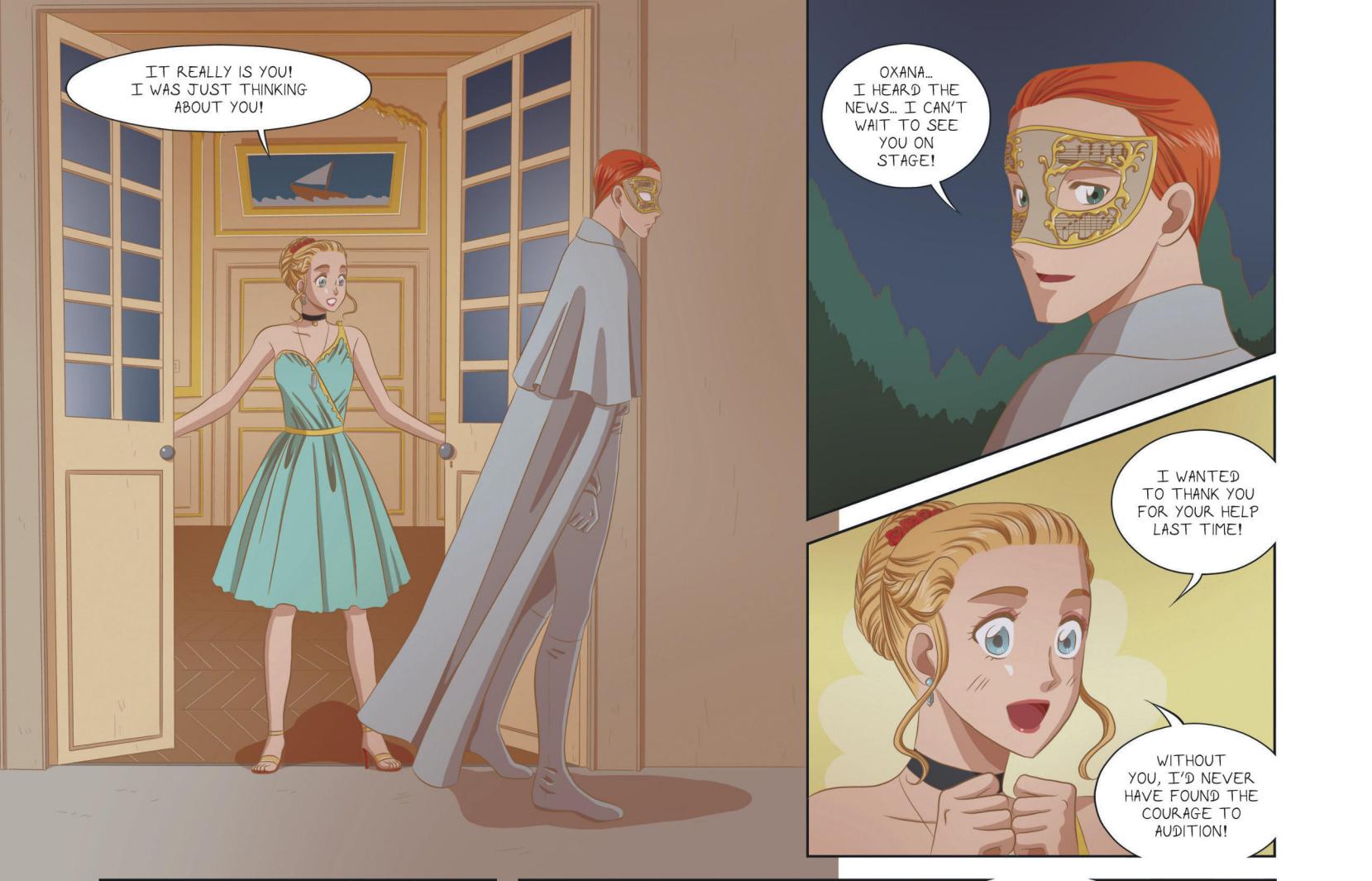
LUDWIG EMBODIES
EVERYTHING THAT THE GRAND
THEATER HAS ALWAYS DEMANDED
OF ITS ARTISTS: RIGOR AND
PERSEVERANCE.

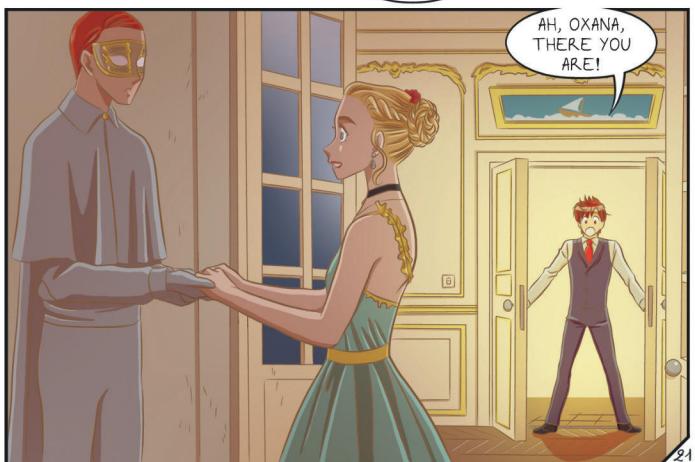
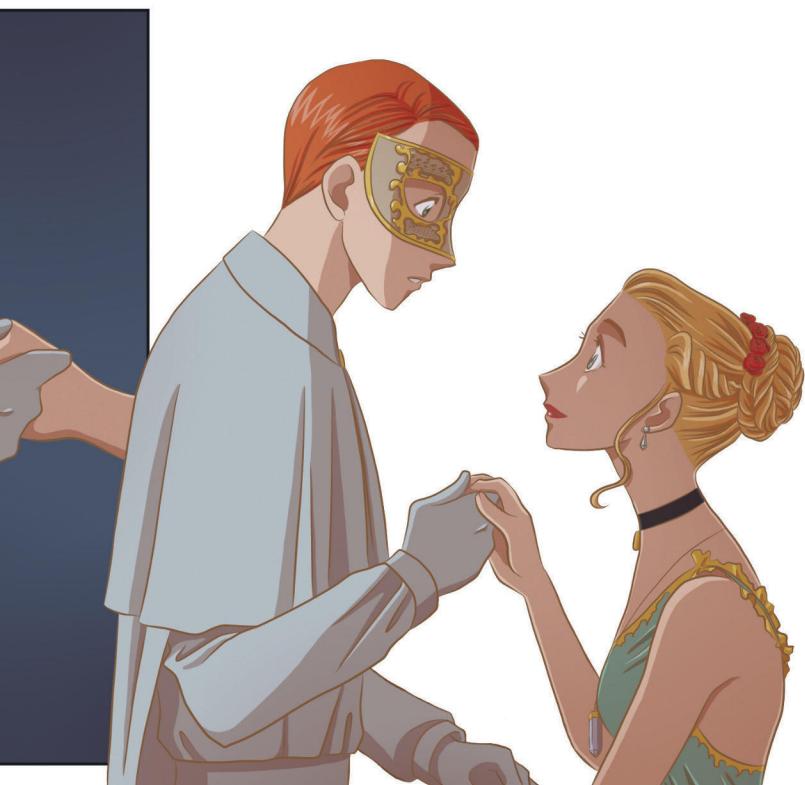
FOR HIS IMMENSE TALENT AND
LOYALTY, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT
HE'S ONLY RECENTLY JOINED THE COMPANY,
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO NAME HIM THE
ORCHESTRA'S FIRST VIOLINIST.

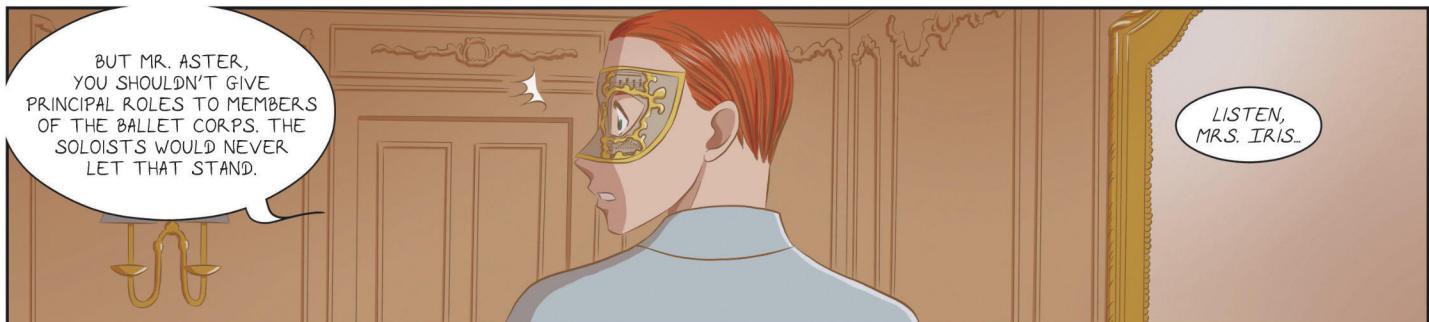
I ALSO HAVE ANOTHER
BIG ANNOUNCEMENT! I'VE
DECIDED TO REINTRODUCE
THE *SLEEPING BEAUTY* BALLET
INTO OUR REPERTOIRE
FOR NEXT SEASON!

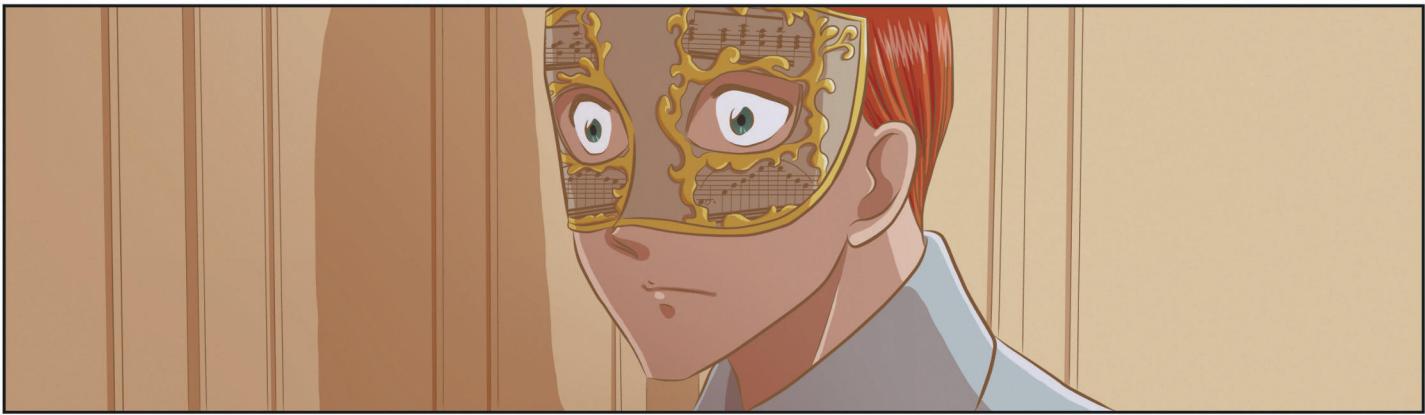
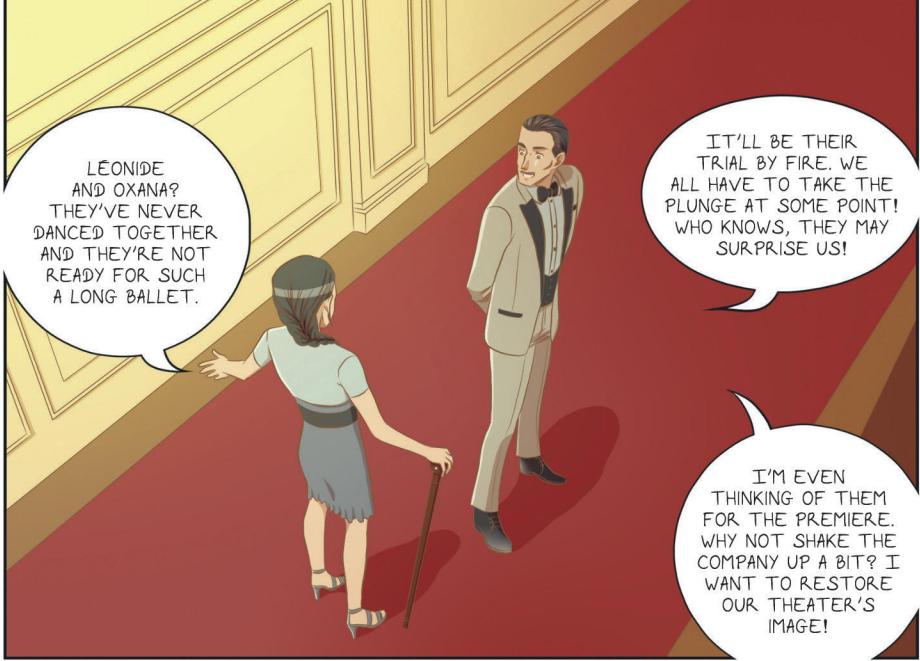


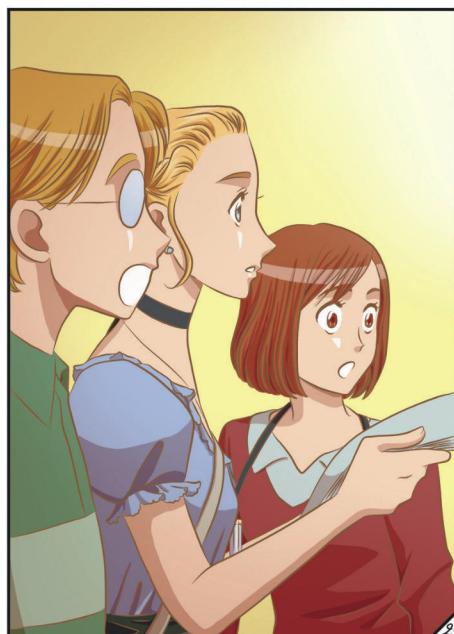
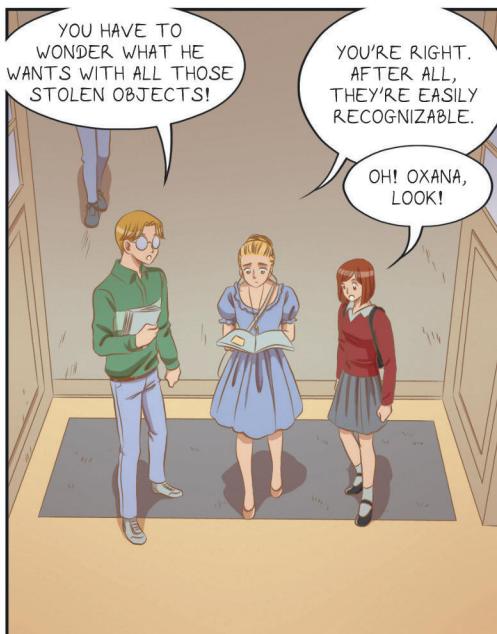
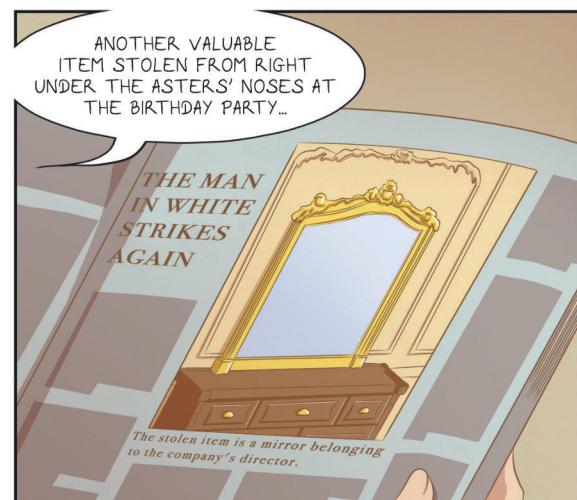
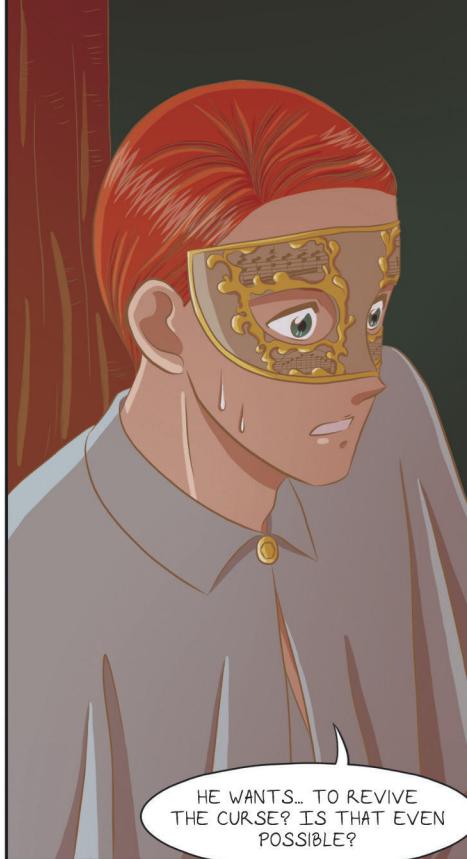
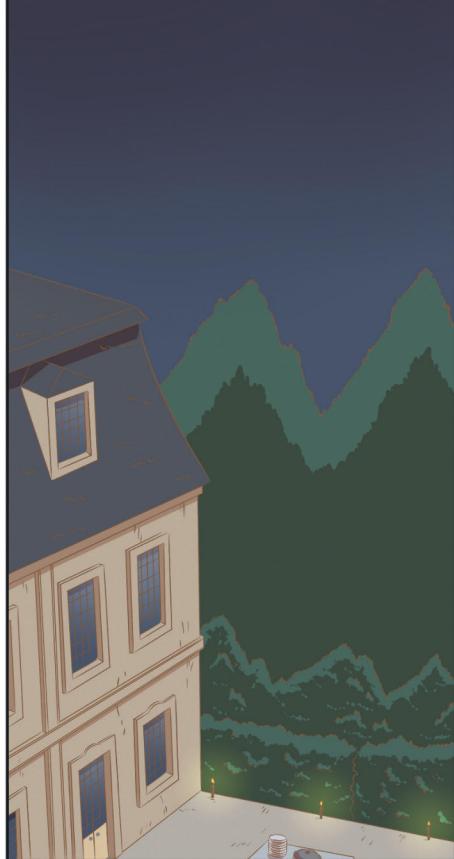


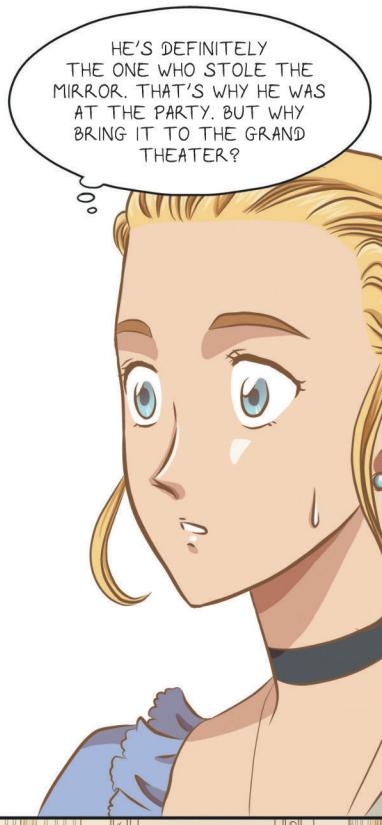


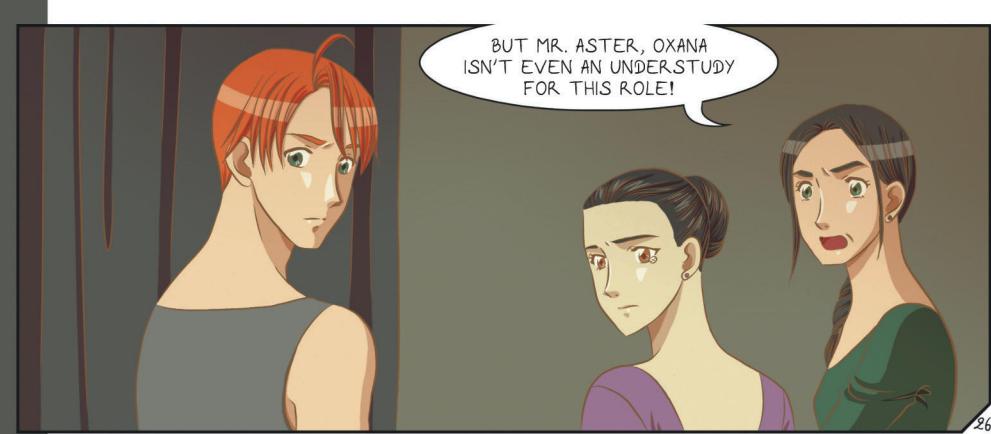
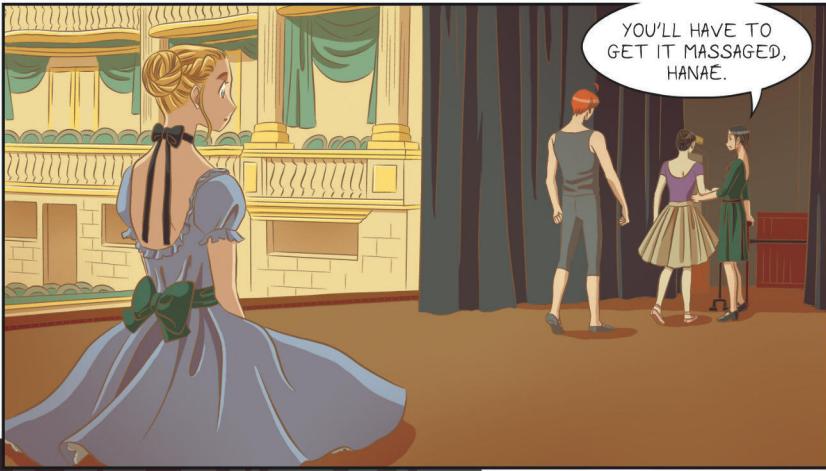






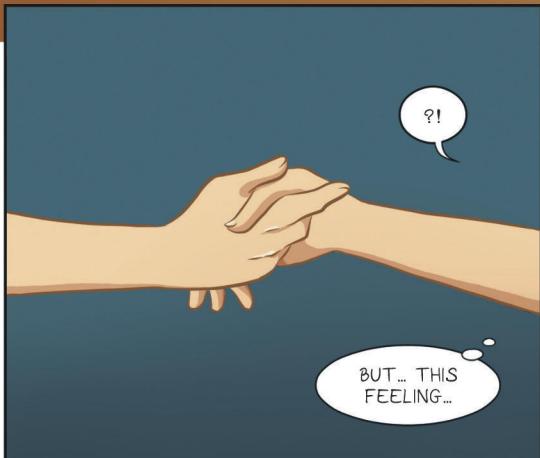


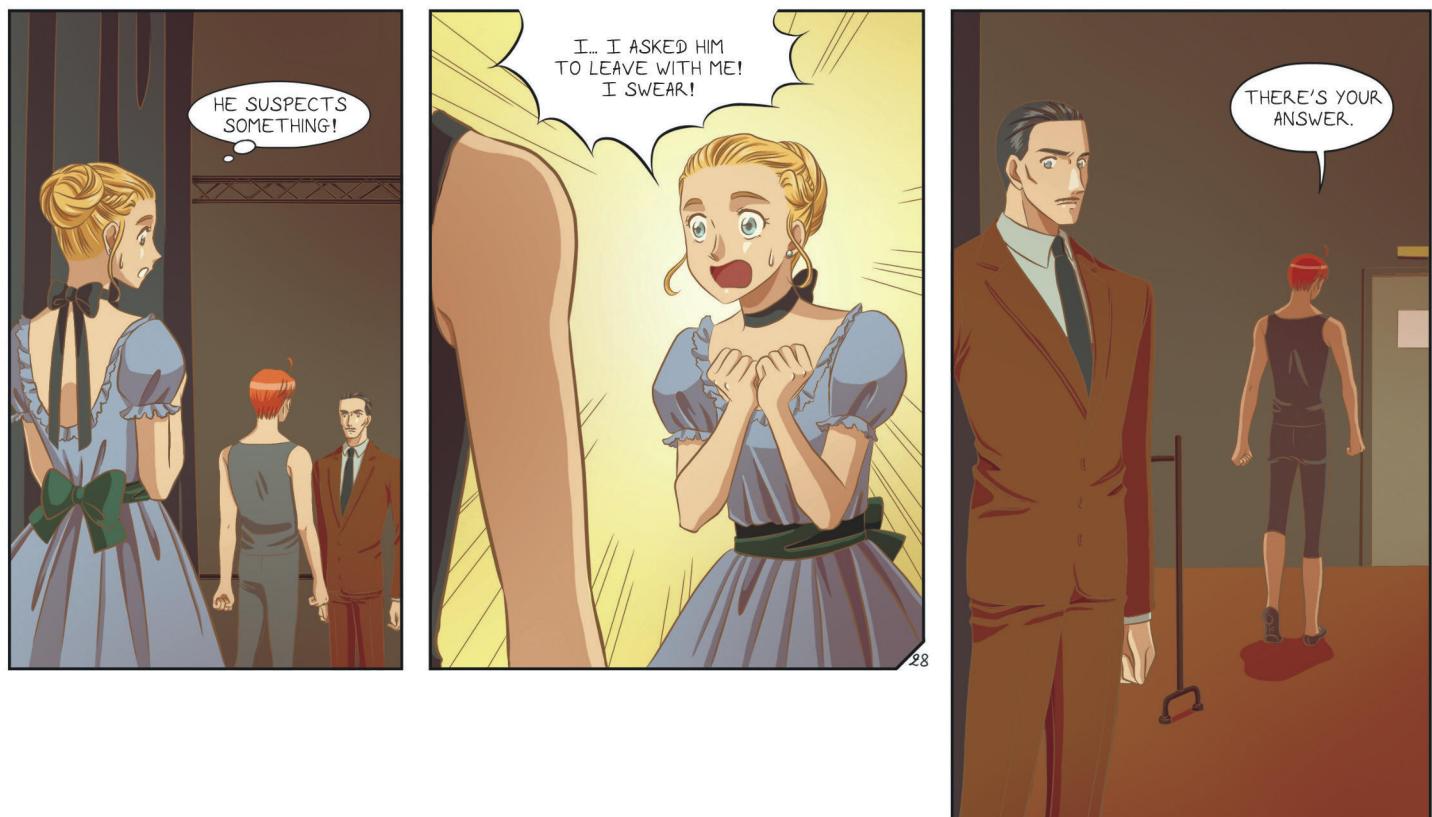
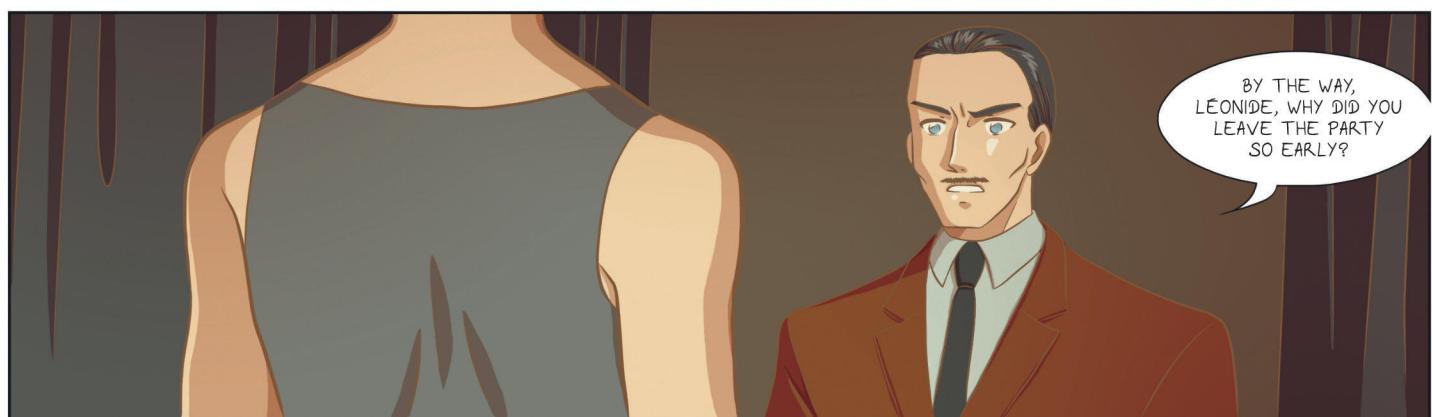
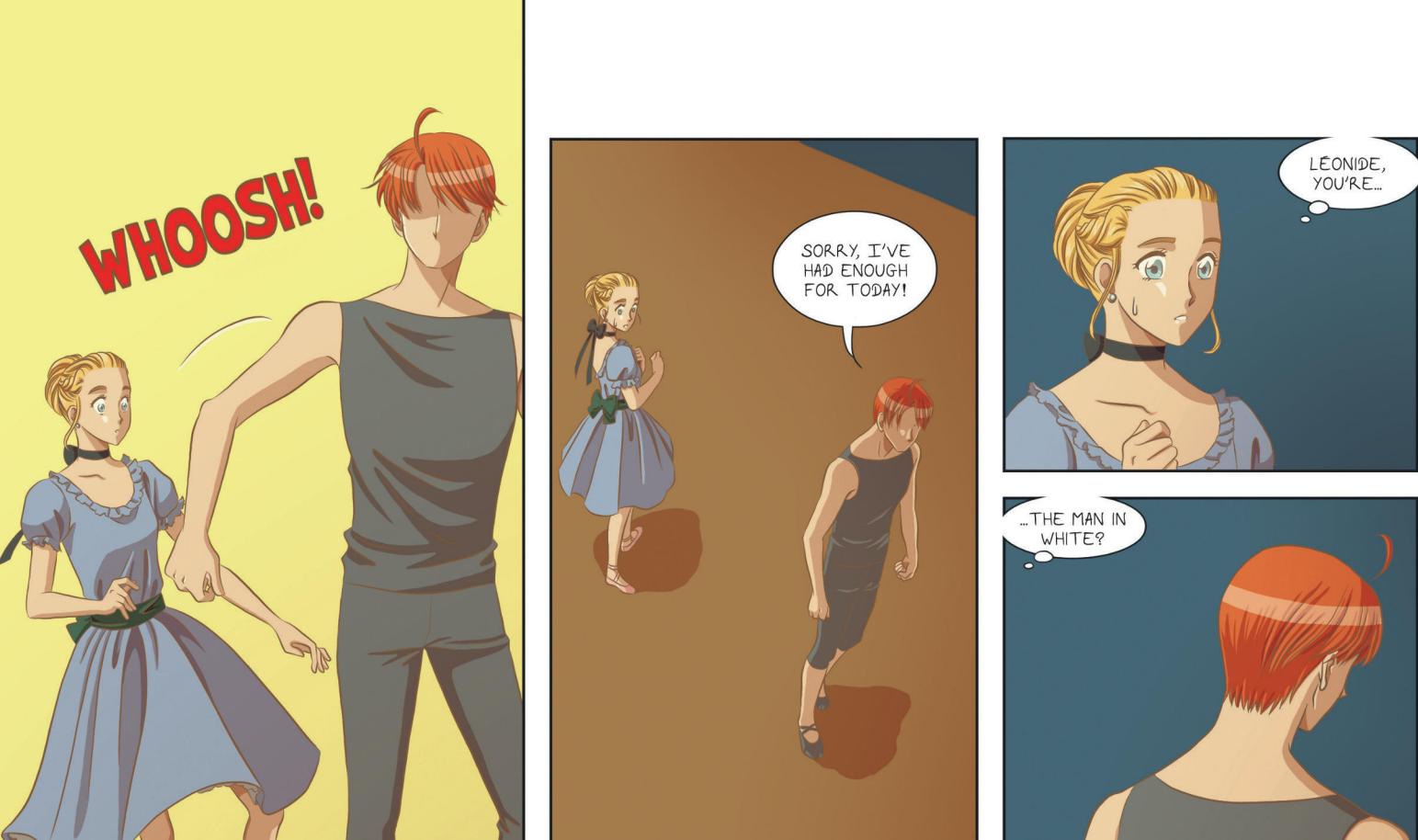


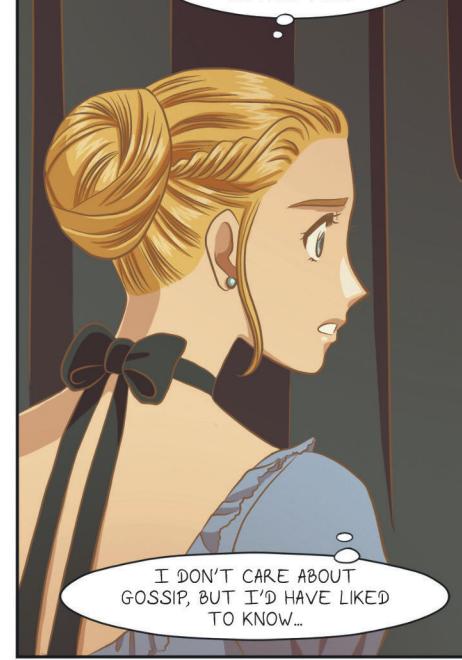


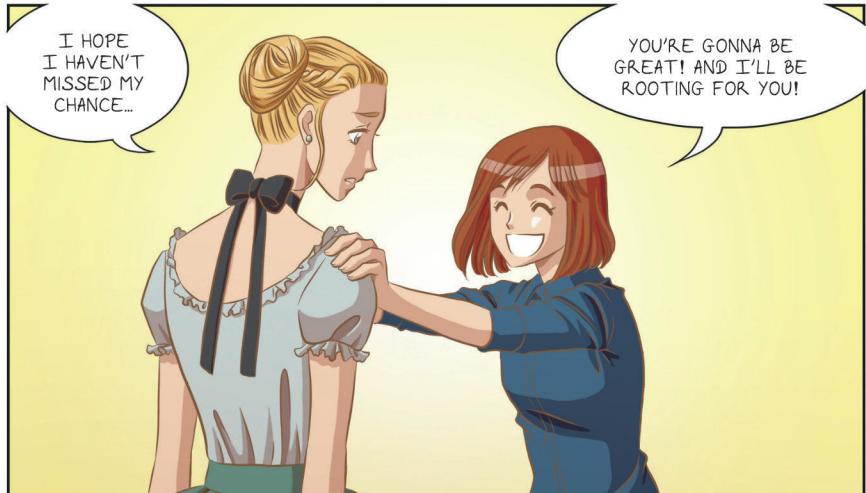
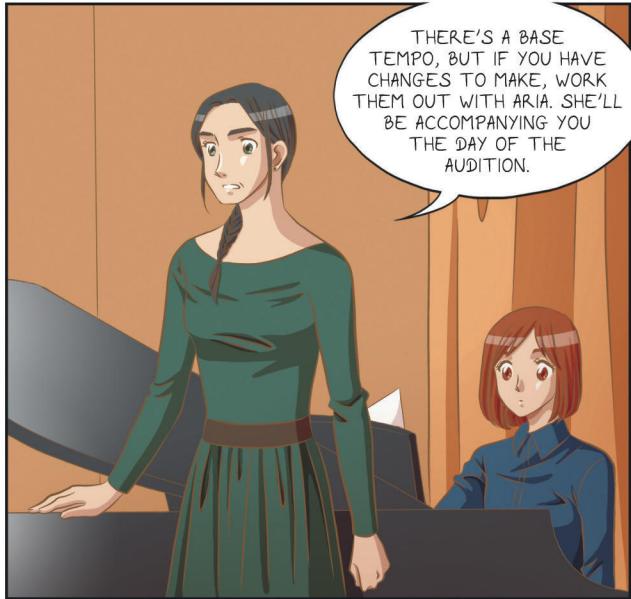
26





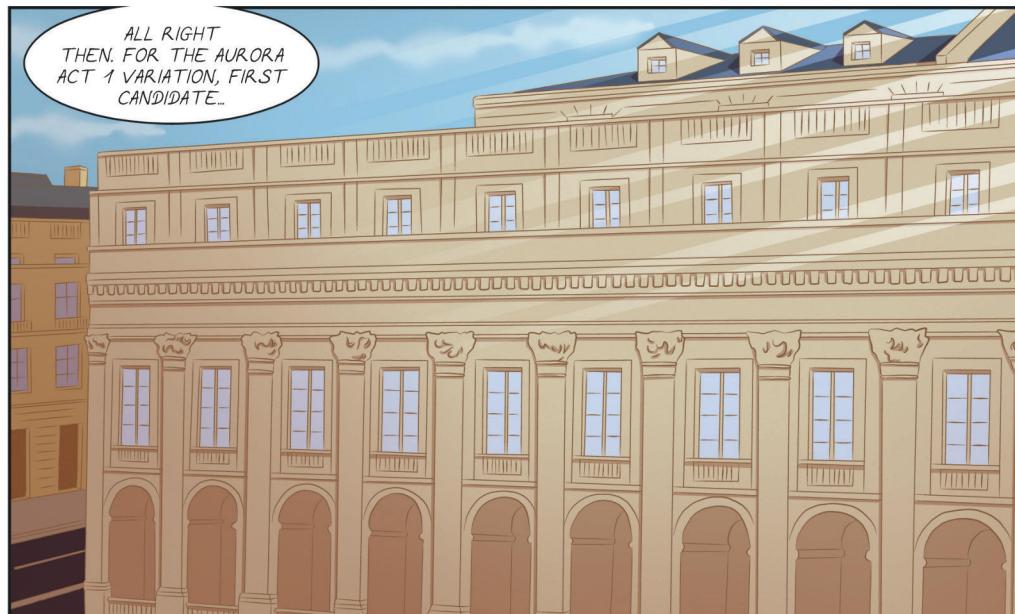
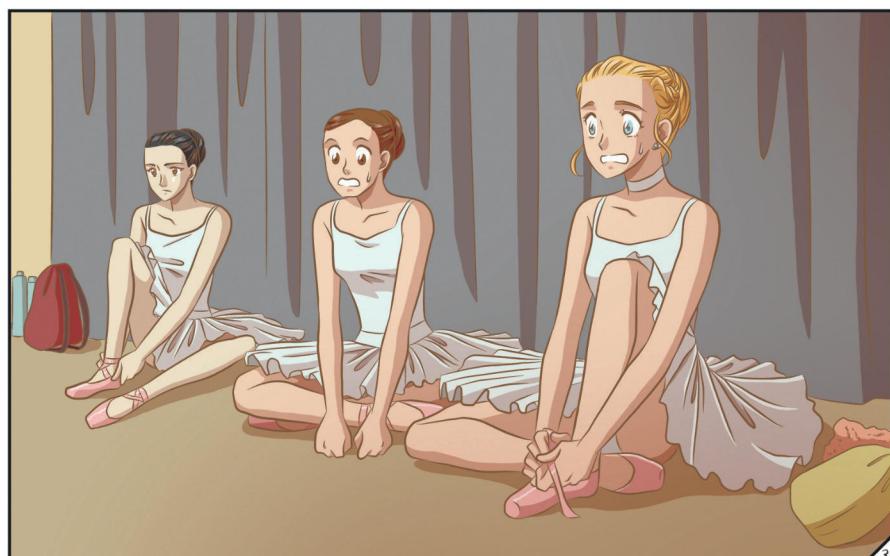


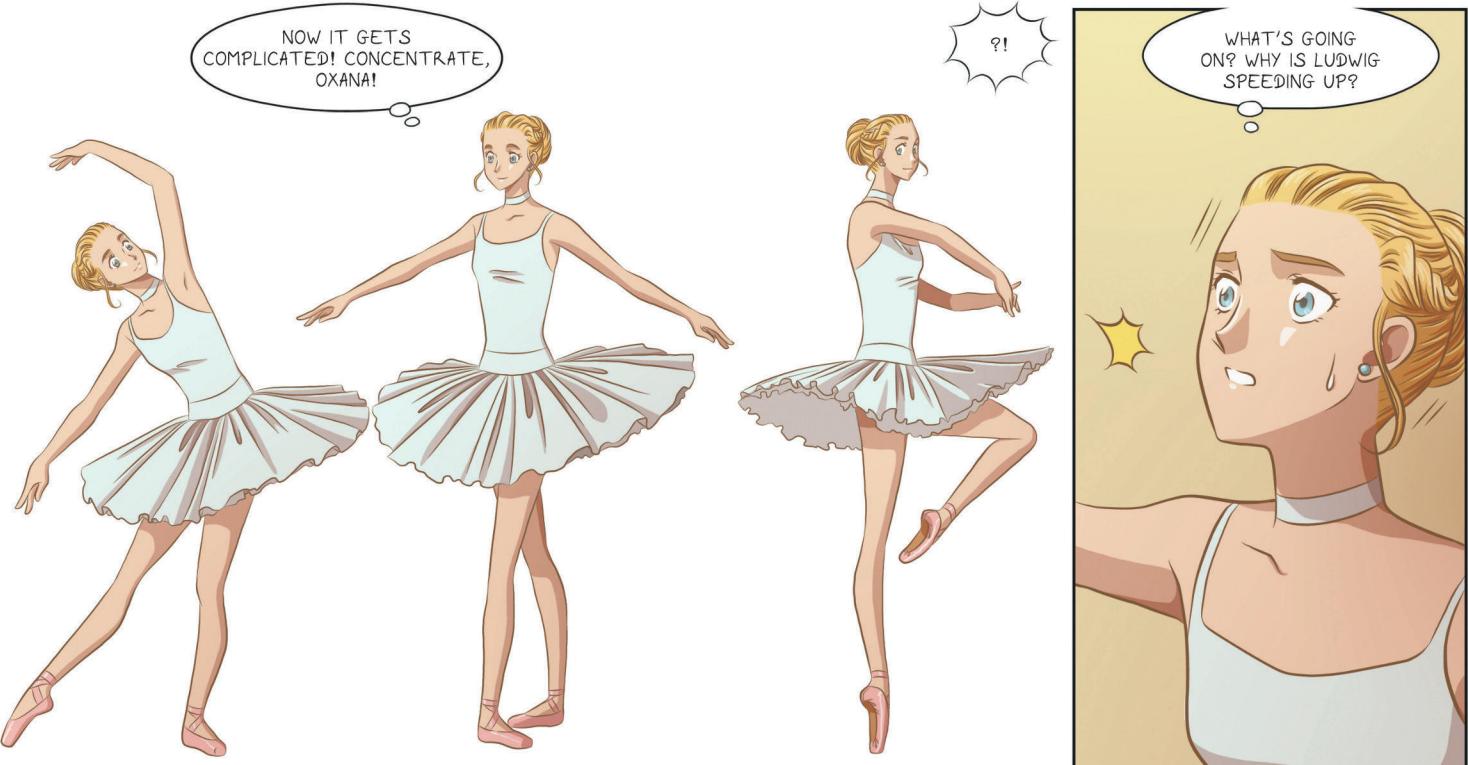




30









WHERE
IS HE?!
I'M GONNA
KILL HIM!

BAM!

ARIA?

STOMP!

THIS TIME HE'S
GONE TOO FAR!

THAT'S FOR
LOCKING ME IN THE
CLOSET!

SLAP!

ENOUGH! EVERYONE
OUT! ARIA, COME TO MY OFFICE
ONCE THE JURY HAS FINISHED
DELIBERATING!

IF YOU EVER
TRY THAT AGAIN
I'LL TEAR YOU TO
PIECES!

ARIA...

HA, HA!



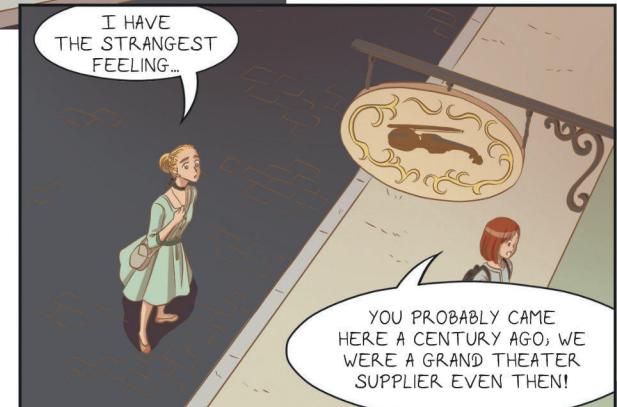
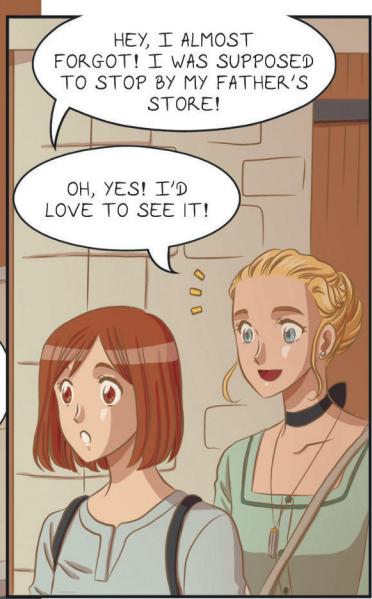
HANAÉ WAS VERY
GOOD, BUT I THINK HER
INJURED CALF IS STILL
BOthering HER.

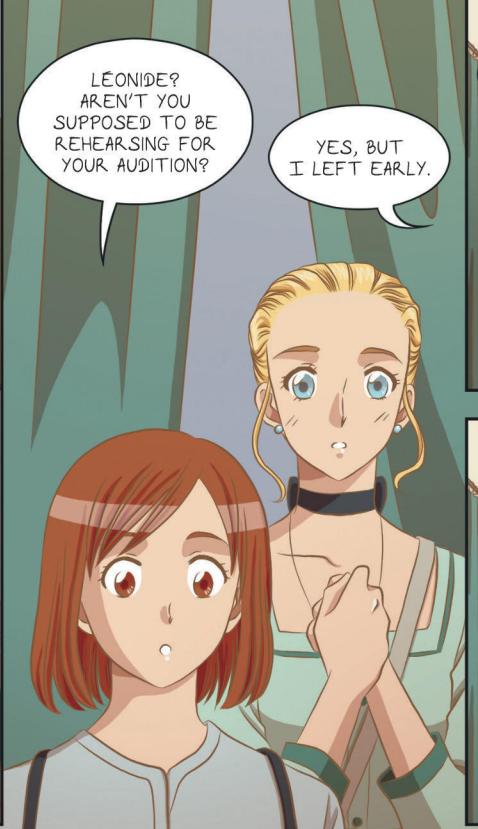
OXANA CLEARLY
WASN'T AT HER BEST...

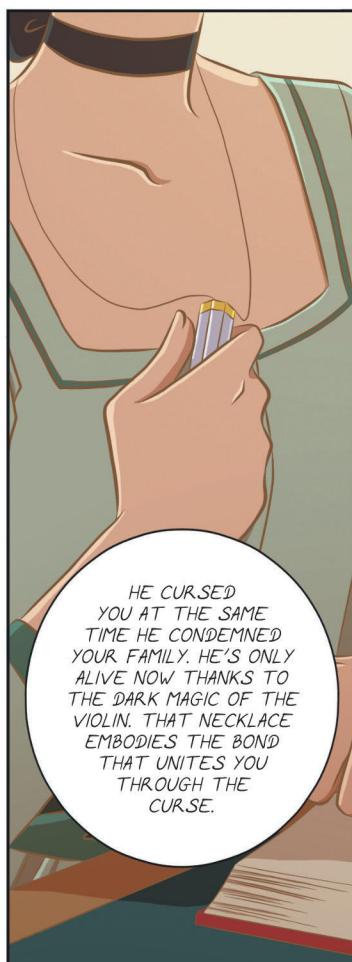




...AND HER TECHNIQUE IS STILL WEAK. WE CLEARLY CAN'T CHOOSE HER FOR THE ROLE.







YOU SEE, THE ASTER ESTATE AND EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO MY FAMILY COMES FROM STOLEN MONEY.



MR. ASTER MANAGED TO ERASE ALL TRACE OF THE THEFTS AND YOUR EXISTENCE.

THE EMPLOYEE WHO SOLD HIM THE VIOLIN FILED AWAY THE FEW NEWSPAPER ARTICLES THAT MADE MENTION OF THE THEFTS.

HE ALSO KNEW WHAT HAPPENED ON STAGE DURING THE PREMIERE OF SLEEPING BEAUTY.

THAT'S HOW I DISCOVERED YOUR STORY. I DECIDED TO DISGUISE MYSELF AS THE MAN IN WHITE AND WAKE YOU UP. SINCE I'M AN ASTER MYSELF, I HAD TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN UNDER AN ASSUMED IDENTITY.

BUT ABOVE ALL, I HOLD MR. ASTER LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO MY MOTHER. I COULD NEVER FORGIVE HIM.

ONCE HE'S FOUND OUT, HE'LL FINALLY HAVE TO PAY FOR HIS CRIMES. HE'S BEEN FEARED BY THE ENTIRE COMPANY FOR GENERATIONS...

IN MY EYES, YOU WERE THE ONLY REMAINING WITNESS TO THIS DESPICABLE MAN'S CRIMES. HE MUST BE STOPPED, FOREVER.



LÉONIDE, YOU... YOU MEAN TO SAY I WAS JUST A PART OF YOUR SCHEME FOR REVENGE?



IS THAT ALL I AM TO YOU? A WITNESS? IN ANY CASE, ASSUMING ALL OF IT'S EVEN TRUE, I HARDLY REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THAT TIME!

AND ASIDE FROM WHAT THAT EMPLOYEE WROTE, THERE'S NO CONCRETE PROOF OF ANY OF THIS!

YES THERE IS: THE VIOLIN, FOR ONE. AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...



THAT SCAR ON YOUR
NECK IS PROOF THAT THE
VIOLIN CORD STRANGLED YOU
THE NIGHT MR. ASTER
ACQUIRED IT.

I ALWAYS
WONDERED IF IT
WAS STILL THERE,
HIDDEN BEHIND
YOUR RIBBON.

BUT NOW...

I'M CERTAIN OF
IT. IT'S A PERFECT
MATCH.

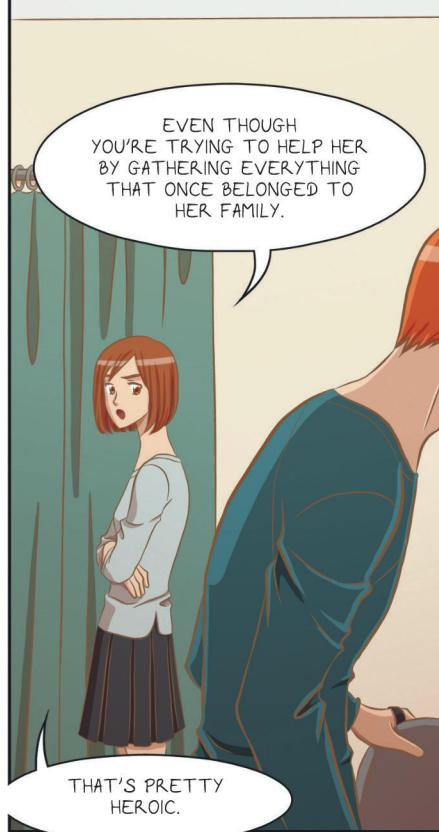
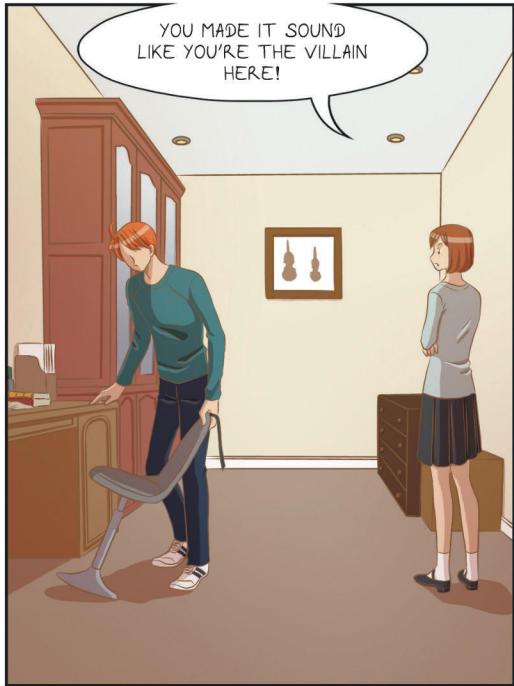
I'M SORRY THAT I
MADE YOU PROMISE TO TAKE
ON THE ROLE OF AURORA EVEN
THOUGH YOU'D CERTAINLY NEVER
BE ABLE TO DANCE IT
TO THE END.

CLAG!

OXANA?!

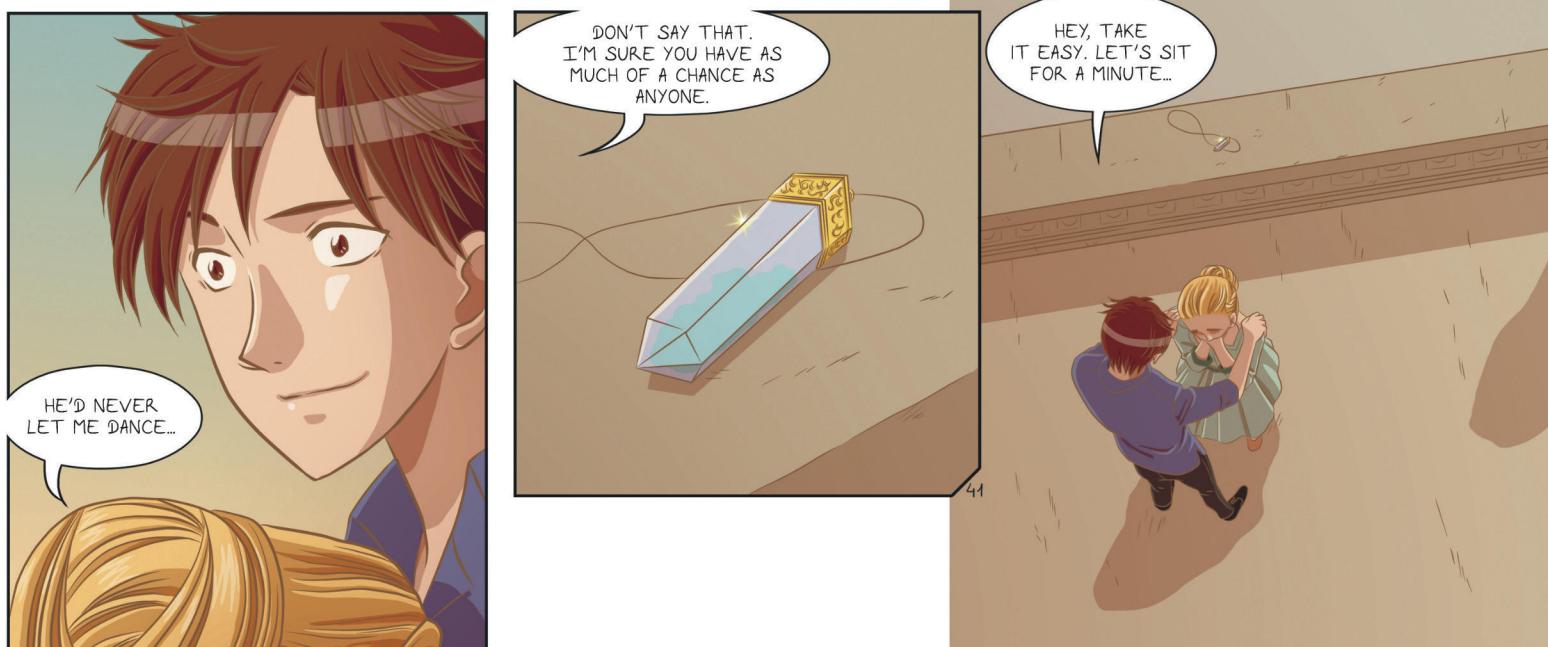
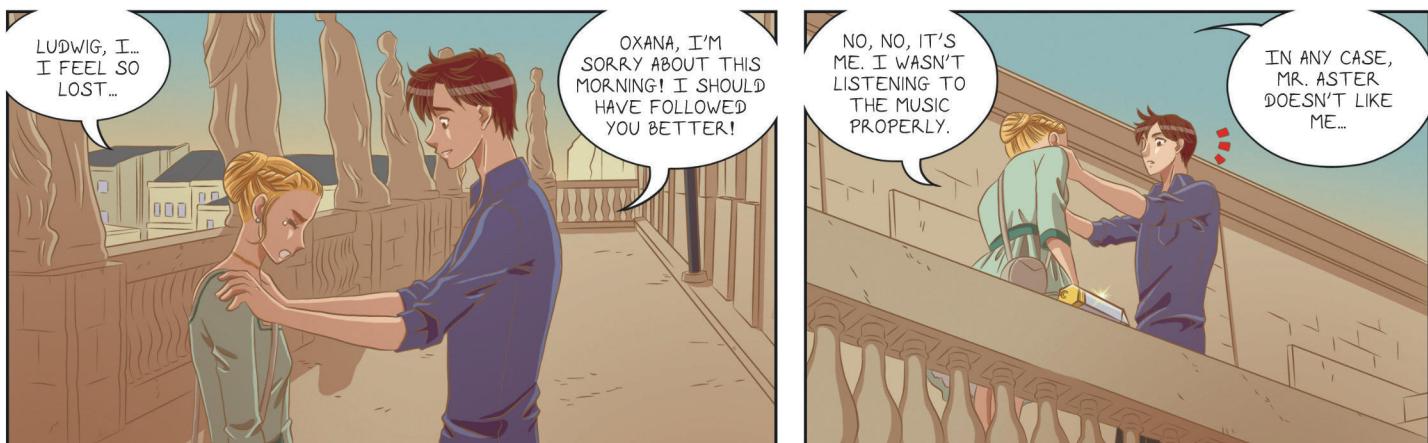
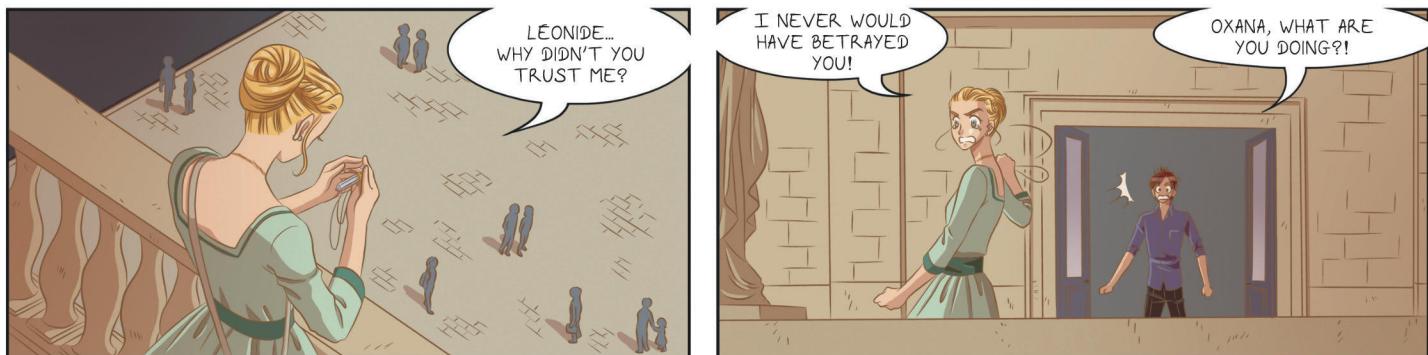
SORRY,
LÉONIDE, WE HEARD
EVERYTHING...

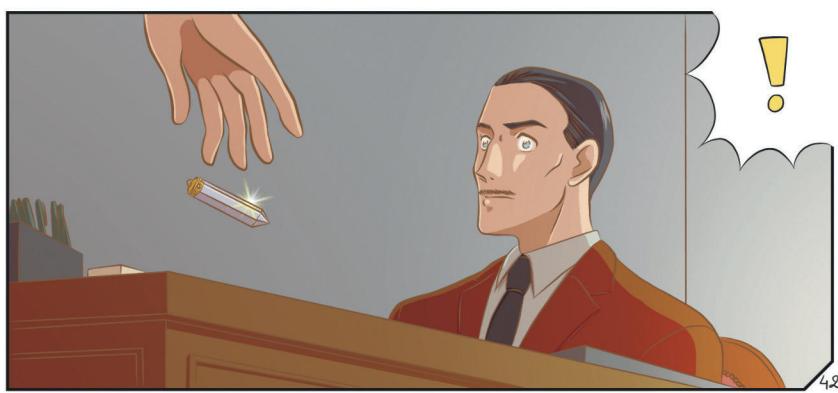
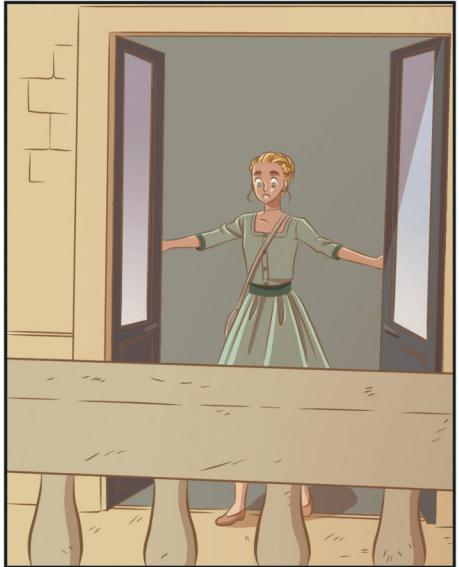
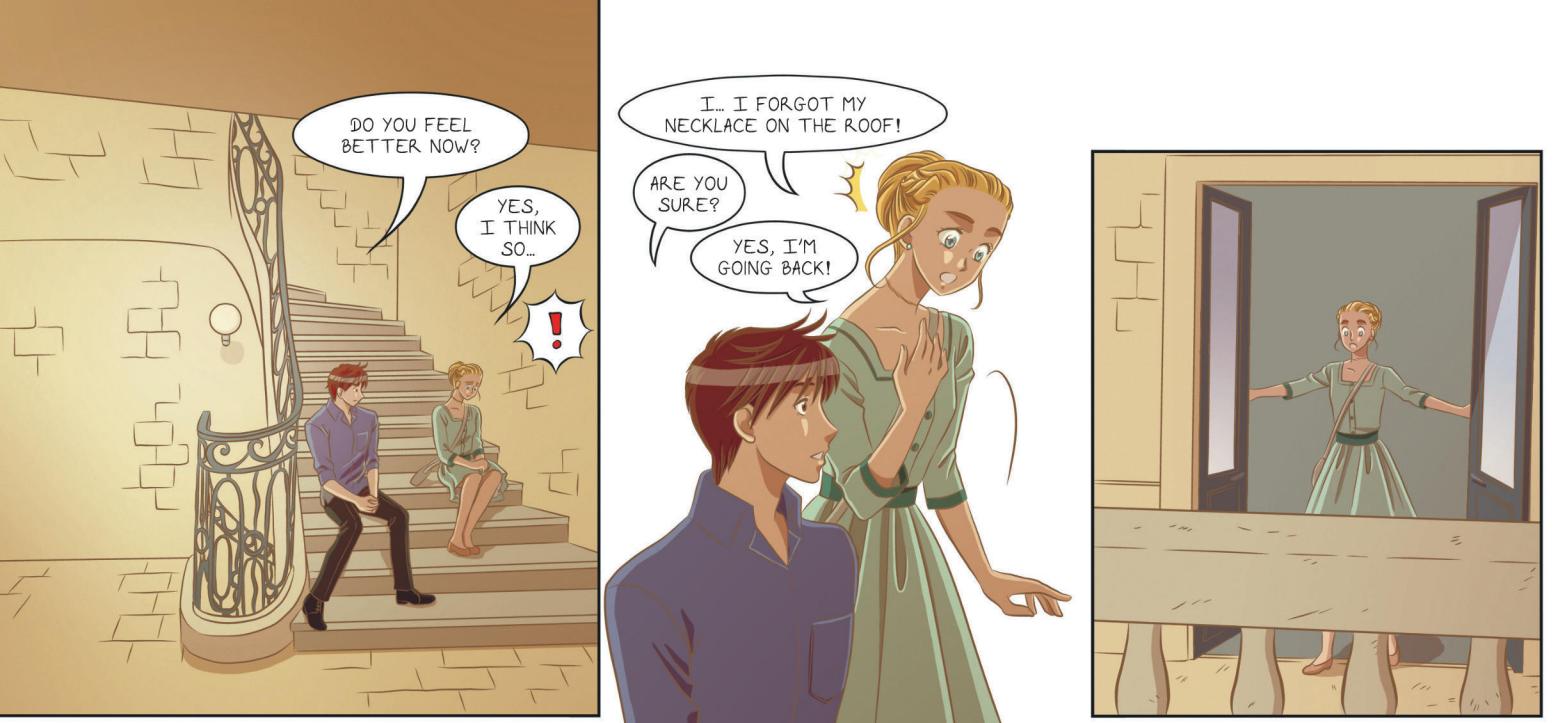
CLING!



40

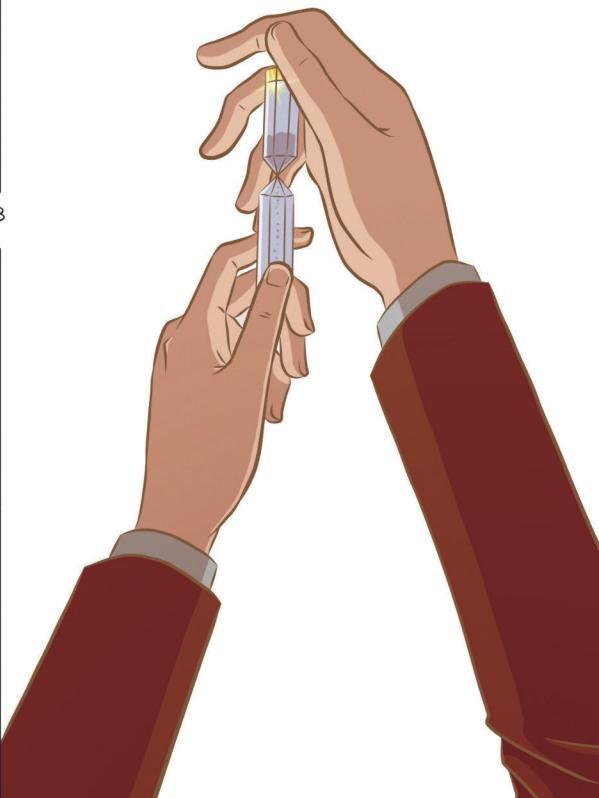
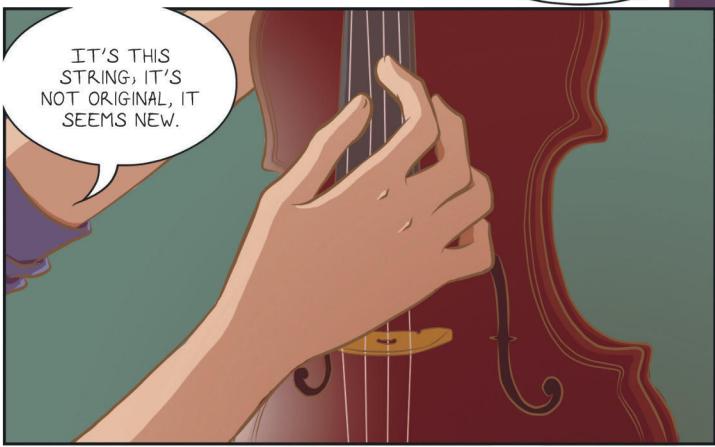






42







SLEEPING BEAUTY

Opening Night Cast

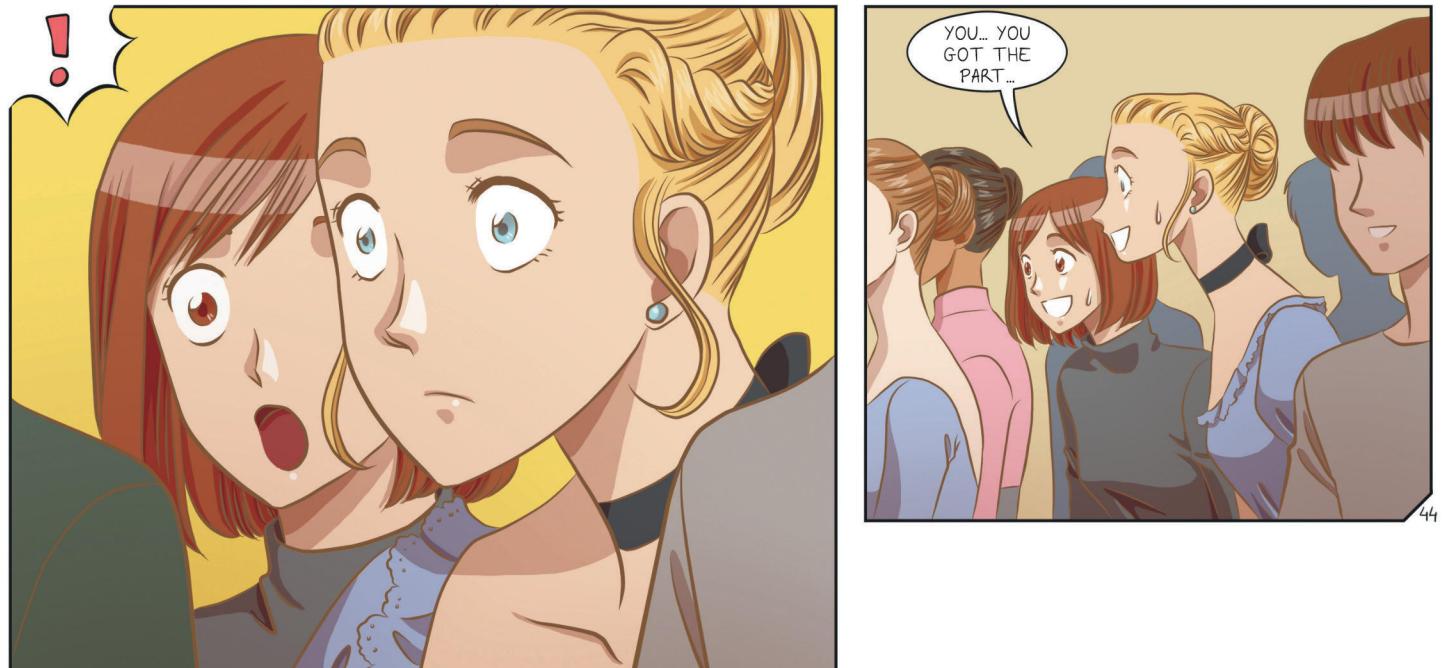
The Princess Aurora
Oxana Ravenel (understudy: Hanaé Keshi)

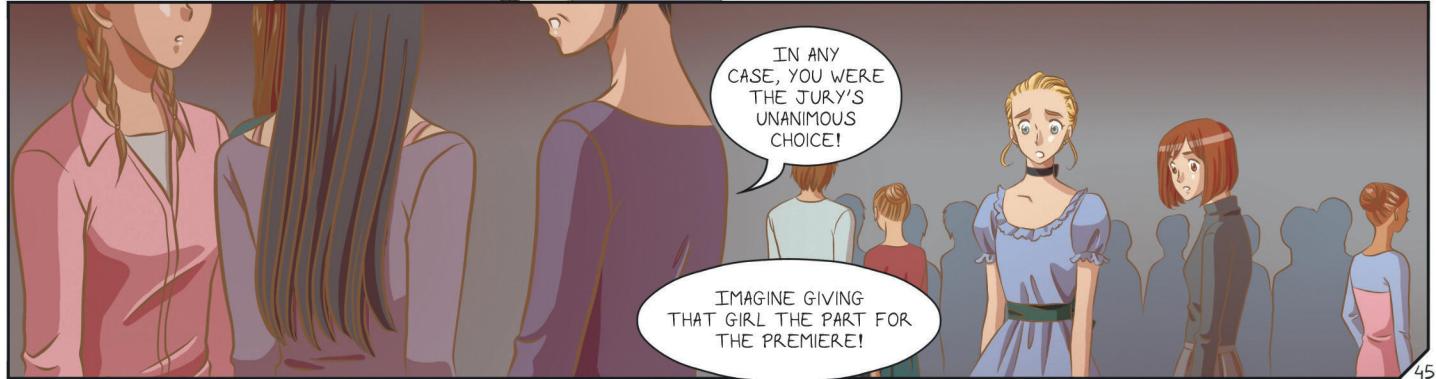
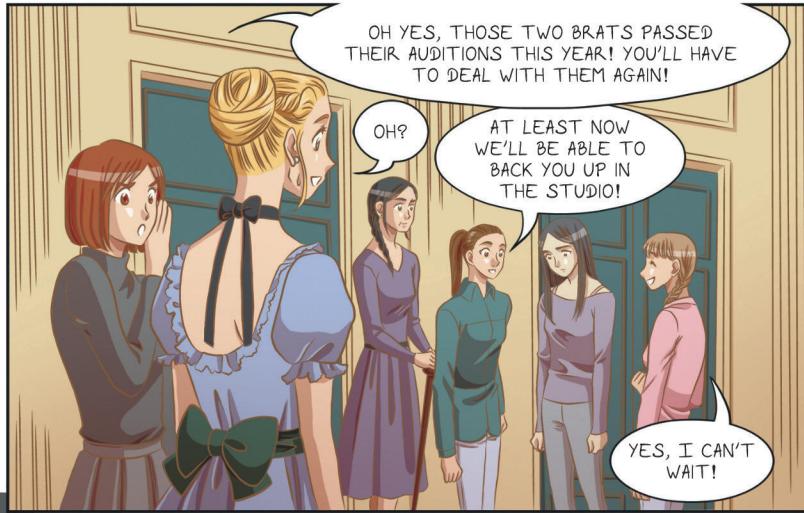
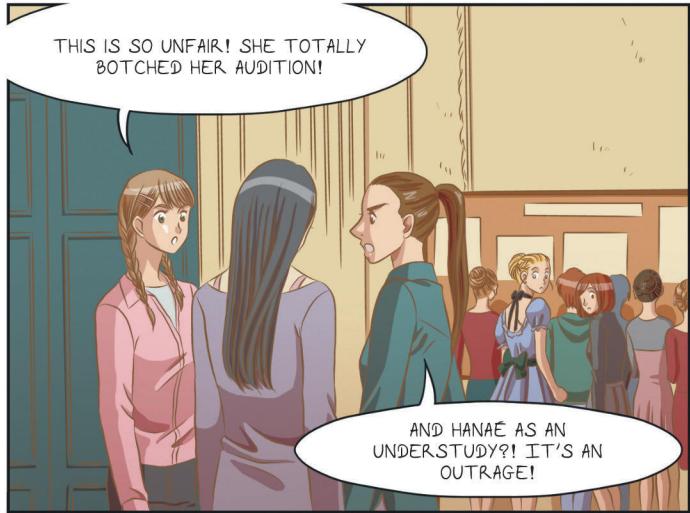
The Prince Désiré
Léonide Aster (understudy: Luc Gérin)

The Lilac Fairy
Stella Bron

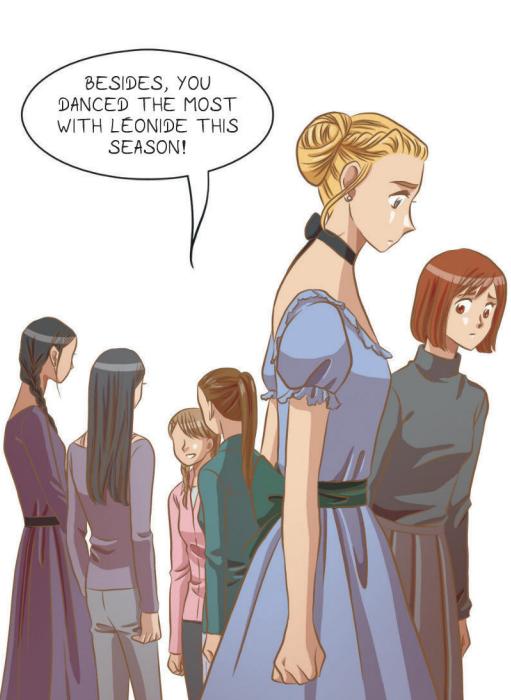
The Evil Fairy Carabosse
Boris Grand

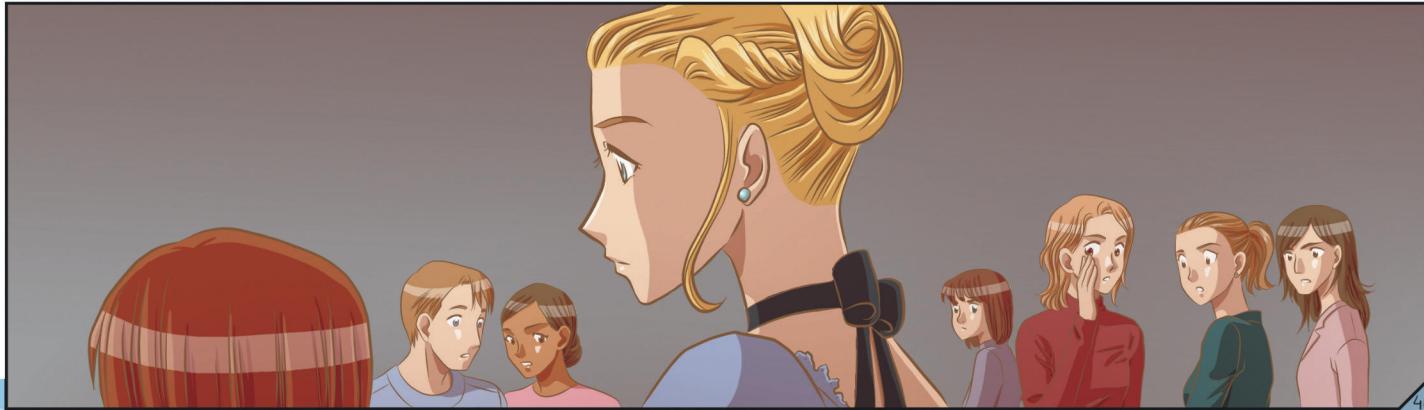
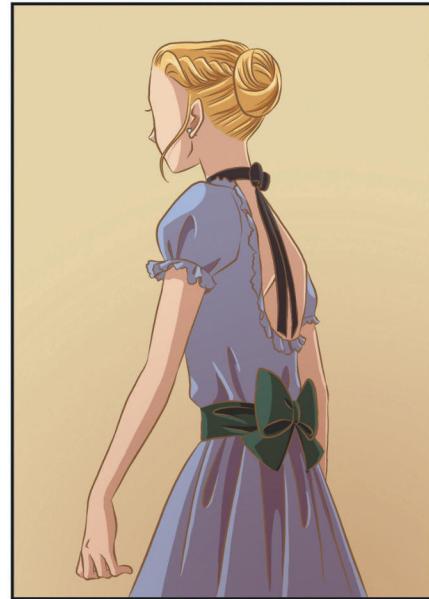
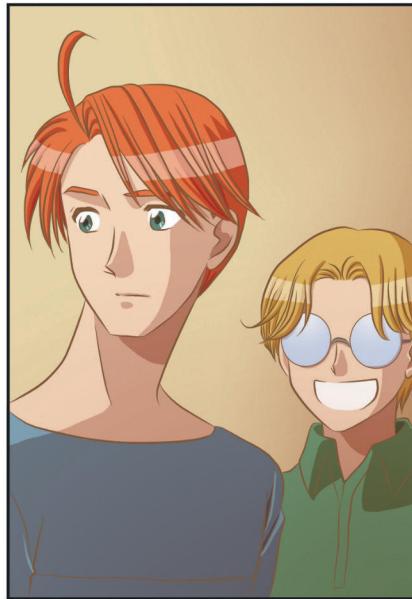
IF I GET EVEN
A TINY ROLE, I'LL BE
THRILLED!





45





46



For Aerinn, Lulu, and Vuore, in memory of our days of fanzines and conventions.
For Sameh, Céline, and Élodie in memory of classes in the prefab buildings of a certain high school.
For Lynda, Émilie, Solène, and Shujie, in memory of college days replete with
grammar and lectures that enthralled to greater or lesser degrees.
And for Linda, whose help was beyond measure!

EUROPE COMICS - ALL DIGITAL. ALL EUROPEAN.
www.europecomics.com

*This work is published as an e-book under the collective imprint Europe Comics,
coordinated by Mediatoon Licensing. For rights queries, please contact Mediatoon at
contact.mfr@mediatoon.com, or visit <http://www.mediatoon-foreignrights.com>.*

© 2019 – DARGAUD – Karina
Translation: Jessie Aufriey
Editing: Anna Howell
Lettering: Cromatik Ltd
Original title: La Belle endormie – Acte II
Originally published in French by DARGAUD in 2019
All rights reserved.
www.dargaud.com

DARGAUD

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

Oxana, a young dancer from the turn of the 19th century,
is the victim of a terrible curse that plunges her into a deep slumber...
She awakens a hundred years later with no memory of the past
in a time that is not her own. Why has she lost her memory?
What power does her strange necklace hold?
And what are the intentions of the mysterious man
in white who comes to her aid?

